

COMMISSION MEETING
October 18, 2023 – 3:00-5:00pm
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA 94590

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

Join livestream via Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5922775330>

Join via Phone:
1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 592 277 5330

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

CALL TO ORDER / SALUTE TO THE FLAG

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| I. Public Comment | Information |
| <i>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.</i> | |
| II. Consent Calendar (5 min) | Action |
| A. Approve the October 18, 2023 Commission Meeting Agenda
B. Approve the June 21, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes | |
| III. Chair Appoints Nominating Committee for 2024 Officers (5 min) | Discussion |
| IV. Public Hearing: First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Annual Report (30 min) | Action |
| Consider approval of the First 5 Solano submission to the First 5 California Children and Families Commission for its FY2022/23 Annual Report , pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 130150
<i>Gene Ibe, Program Manager</i> | |
| V. Early Learning Center Update (60 min) | Action |
| Motion A: Consider obligating up to \$1,720,000 from the Commission's Reserve to guarantee necessary funds pending the results of outstanding funding requests to fill the remaining gap on Phase I of the Early Learning Center as the payor of last resort <i>(source of funds: Commission Reserve)</i>
<i>Michele Harris, Executive Director, Denise Winters, Deputy Director</i> | |
| VI. Policy and Oversight Committee - Committee Chair: Amy Fabi (5 min)
(no meeting) | Information/
Discussion |
| VII. Executive Director's Report (20 min) | Information |
| <i>Michele Harris, Executive Director</i> | |
| VIII. Commissioner Remarks (5 min) | Information |

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

Information

The next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting is December 13, 2023 at 3:00PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items: Early Learning Center Update, Legislative Platform

The Commission is holding a special meeting on November 8, 2023 at 3:00PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. The special meeting is to discuss the Commission's FY2022/23 Annual Audit

ADJOURN

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

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

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

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

June 21, 2023, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Estrella-Henderson (joined at 3:23 PM), Hannigan, Huber, Jones, McElroy, Shakoor-Grantham, Walker-Gibson, Vice Chair Fabi, Chair Wanberg

Chair Wanberg called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

I. Public Comment

No public comment

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

A. Approve the June 21, 2023 Commission Meeting Agenda

B. Approve the April 19, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes

Consent Calendar moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Jones

Approved 8-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Hannigan, Huber, Jones, McElroy, Shakoor-Grantham, Walker-Gibson, Fabi, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Public Hearing: First 5 California Annual Report

Accept the First 5 California Children and Families Commission's FY2021/22 Annual Report, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 130150

[Public Hearing was opened at 3:12 PM]

First 5 Solano (F5S) Program Manager Lorraine Fernandez presented the First 5 California Annual Report. Each year, Prop 10 requires the First 5 California Commission prepare an annual report on what the 58 counties statewide have been contributing to the well-being of children ages 0-5 and their families. The report highlights that, statewide, 575,816 children were served along with 683,069 parents/caregivers. The annual report featured four result areas, including improved family functioning (consisting of both general and intensive family support and family literacy/book programs), improved child development (consisting of quality early learning supports and programs), improved child health (consisting of early intervention, general health education/promotion, oral health education

and treatment, perinatal and early childhood home visiting, and prenatal and infant/toddler pediatric support), and improved systems of care (consisting of systems building, emergency and disaster relief, and policy and public advocacy). Ms. Fernandez also highlighted that construction of F5S's Fairfield First 5 Center will begin in the summer of 2023 and is expected to be completed in January 2025.

[Public hearing was closed at 3:38 PM]

First 5 California Annual Report moved by Commissioner Huber; Seconded by Commissioner Hannigan

Approved 9-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

IV. Equity Audit

F5S's Lorraine Fernandez introduced Pati Navalta, of Navalta Media, who presented an update on First 5 Solano's Equity Audit. The aim of the Equity Audit is to review First 5 Solano's written materials to make recommendations on equitable language used that should be used more, while identifying and phasing out language that doesn't support First 5 Solano's strategic goals. Ms. Navalta explained that an "inside-out" approach was used to achieve this goal by reviewing content (F5S's website, social media, documents) and conducting surveys/interviews with Board of Supervisors, staff, an educator, community partner, and provider. Some key findings with the survey include: there was general alignment on what equity and inclusion look like, there were identified areas where more can be done (such as removing barriers to language, transportation, and technology, increasing diversity amongst staff, increasing outreach to families that can benefit most from services), and there was a racial divide among those who believe First 5 Solano Leadership is diverse, with non-Hispanic respondents believing it is diverse and Hispanic respondents believing it is not diverse.

The Commission discussed the results of the Equity Audit, considered the recommendations, and inquired about what's next for First 5 Solano in the realm of equity. Ms. Navalta stated that she will be working with staff to begin the work of adjusting First 5 Solano's internal language used and begin to craft trainings and materials that reflect the work of First 5 Solano for its external use.

V. Policy and Oversight Committee

As there was no Policy & Oversight Committee meeting.

VI. Executive Director's Report

First 5 Solano Executive Director Michele Harris indicated that 3 Federal Earmark Requests were approved on behalf of the Early Learning Center; \$3M submitted by Congressman Garamendi, \$1M submitted by Senator Feinstein, and \$3M submitted by Senator Padilla. The Congressional Appropriations Committee will consider these requests but only one of these requests can be funded. ED Harris also noted that the IMPACT Program will no longer be administratively handled through F5S but through Solano County Office of Education.

VII. Commissioner Remarks

No Commissioner remarks.

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

The next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting is August 16, 2023 at 3:00PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items: Early Learning Center Update

Adjourn

Chair Wanberg adjourned the meeting for the public 4:47 PM.

Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DATE: October 5, 2023

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Commissioner Tyffany Wanberg, Chair

BY: Gene Ibe, Program Manager

SUBJ: Nominating Committee for Election of 2024 First 5 Solano Commission Officers

In December of each year, the First 5 Solano Commission elects its officers (Chair and Vice-Chair) per its Bylaws. To facilitate this process, the Commission Chair is calling for 2-3 Commissioner volunteers to comprise an ad hoc Nominating Committee to bring forward recommended officers for the upcoming year.

For the Commission's convenience, attached are copies of the Bylaws and the First 5 Solano "Commissioner Job Description," which include details about the duties of the Chair and Vice-Chair. Officers serve a term of one calendar year. Commissioners interested in serving as officers can review these materials and, if they wish to be considered, forward their names to the Nominating Committee for consideration.

[Attachment A: Commission Bylaws](#)

[Attachment B: Commissioner Job Description](#)

BY-LAWS
OF
FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

ARTICLE 1

AUTHORITY

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission is governed by the California Children and Families Act of 1998 and Solano County Code Section 7.3.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE AND INTENT

Section 2.1 Purpose. The specific purpose of this Commission is to carry out the mandates as set forth in the California Children and Families Act of 1998 and Solano County Code Section 7.3.

ARTICLE III

POWERS AND DUTIES

Section 3.1 Powers and Duties. The powers and duties of the Commission shall be as set forth in the California Children and Families Act of 1998 and Solano County Code Section 7.3.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERS

Section 4.1. Management of the Commission's Activities and Affairs. The activities and affairs of the Commission shall be conducted as set forth in the California Children and Families Act of 1998 and Solano County Code Section 7.3.

Section 4.2 Membership. The Commission shall be appointed by the Solano County Board of Supervisors as set forth in the California Children and Families Act of 1998 and Solano County Code Section 7.3.

Section 4.3 California Political Reform Act. Members shall comply with the terms of the California Political Reform Act.

Section 4.4 Terms of Office. The terms of office for each Commission member shall be four years. The terms of the original members shall be staggered.

SECTION V

COMMITTEES

Section 5.1 Standing and Ad Hoc Committees. The Commission may form standing committees or ad hoc committees as needed.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 6.1 Identification and Title. The officers of the Commission shall be the Chair and the Vice-Chair.

Section 6.2 Terms of Office. The term of office for each officer shall be one year.

Section 6.3 Election of Officers. The election of officers shall take place at the first meeting in December of any year. The newly elected officers shall take office at the first meeting in January of any year. Vacancies in the positions of Chair and/or Vice-Chair that occur during the calendar year shall be filled by election as soon as possible, in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, and any such officer(s) elected mid year shall serve out the remainder of the calendar year.

Section 6.4 Conduct of Meetings. The Chair shall preside at all meetings. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall preside. In the absence of both, the Commissioners attending shall choose a temporary Chair at the beginning of the meeting.

Section 6.5 Chair. The Chair shall:

1. Preside at all meetings of the Commission;
2. Appoint Chairs of Standing and ad hoc Committees.
3. Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Commission.

Section 6.6 Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be delegated by the Chair, and when the Chair is unable to preside at meetings and in his/her absence, shall preside and otherwise act as Chair.

ARTICLE VII

MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

Section 7.1 Meeting Time and Place. A regular time and place of meeting shall be adopted by the Commission in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Section 7.2 Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Commission may be called from time to time provided such special meeting is called in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

ARTICLE VIII

QUORUM

Section 8.1 Quorum.

- (a) A quorum of the Commission shall be five members present.
- (b) Actions of the Commission shall be by majority vote of the full Commission.
- (c) If a quorum is lost so that no action may be taken, the meeting may continue as a committee in order to allow discussion and take testimony, provided that no action will be taken.

ARTICLE IX

RULES OF ORDER

Section 9.1 Robert's Rules of Order. Except as they may conflict with these By-Laws, the conduct of their affairs by the Commission and of all the committees shall proceed in accordance with provisions of the then-current codification of Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE X

RECORDS, REPORTS AND INSPECTION RIGHTS

Section 10.1. Annual Report.

- (a) By January of each year, the Commission shall furnish a report containing the following information:
 - (1) the assets and liabilities as of the end of the fiscal year;
 - (2) the principal changes in assets and liabilities, including trust funds, during the fiscal year;
 - (3) the revenue or receipts of the Commission, both unrestricted and restricted to particular purposes, for the fiscal year;
 - (4) the expenses or disbursements of the Commission, for both general and restricted purposes, during the fiscal year; and
- (b) The report required herein shall be accompanied by any report thereon of the annual independent audit.

Section 10.2 Strategic Plan. By January of each year the Commission shall furnish a report on outcomes and changes regarding the Commission's Strategic Plan.

ARTICLE XI

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 11.1 Interpretation of By-Laws.

- (a) Unless defined differently herein or unless the context requires a different meaning, terms used in these By-Laws shall have the same meaning as may be given to them in the Law, as amended from time to time.
- (b) To the extent possible, these By-Laws shall be construed as supplemental to all laws applicable to the same subject matter and shall be fully complied with unless such compliance shall be legal.
- (c) Any provision of these By-Laws which is inconsistent with any applicable law shall not be complied with, but such inconsistency shall not affect the validity of any other provision of these By-Laws, it being hereby declared that these By-Laws would have been adopted in full irrespective of the invalidity of any provision thereof.
- (d) By-Laws may be amended by majority vote at a regularly noticed Commission meeting. All proposed changes to these By-Laws shall be mailed to each Commissioner at least 10 days prior to such scheduled meeting. These By-Laws and subsequent amendments to these By-Laws shall take effect upon approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Section 11.2 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Commission shall coincide with Solano County's fiscal year.

First 5 Solano Commissioner “Job Description”

I. First 5 Solano Commissioners are appointed for a four-year term.

The Commission makeup is as follows:

- One Board of Supervisor member
- Two Solano County Department of Health and Social Services representative members
- Five members, each of whom is nominated by a Board of Supervisor member (appointee need not reside in the District the appointing Board member represents)
- One ‘at large’ member

II. Major areas of Commission responsibility include, but are not limited to:

A. **Policy/Strategic Planning:** Oversee the development of, and approve, a strategic plan as the framework for the allocation of funding for programs, services and activities that enhance the health, well-being and development of children 0-5. Oversee and actively engage in the implementation of the strategic plan.

B. **Allocation of funds:** Independent authority to allocate funds for services for children 0-5, their families, and providers on services in accordance with the approved strategic plan.

C. **Accountability:**

1. Ensure that the annual required independent audit is performed and submitted to the Board of Supervisors and First 5 California in accordance with established timelines.
2. Approve an annual proposed budget and submit this budget to the Board of Supervisors in accordance with established timelines. Monitor the budget.
3. Approve the required annual report submission to First 5 California. Monitor and review local program outcomes and documented results.

D. **Functioning/Staffing:**

1. Approve and monitor policies as needed and ensure adherence to County policies as appropriate.
2. Participate in the selection and evaluation of the Executive Director.
3. Provide direction to staff to carry out the work of the Commission.

E. **Community Engagement:** Substantively involve Solano parents, service providers, interested community members and policy makers in the activities and decision-making process of the Commission. Ensure that the Commission’s strategic plan, funding priorities, programs and services reflect community needs and priorities. Ensure the free and open flow of information among Commissioners and the public.

II. Commissioner Job Duties:

In order to fulfill these responsibilities (and carry out the other powers and duties prescribed in the Children and Families First Act, County Code Section 7.3, Commission By-Laws and applicable commission policies), Commissioners are expected to commit to a substantive level of time and effort, including but not limited to the sections below.

- A. **Meetings** – Commissioners must maintain sufficient meeting attendance in accordance with County Code Section 7.3 and the First 5 Solano Commission Meeting Attendance Policy.

All Commissioners - There are up to 8 full Commission meetings per year, generally starting in late afternoon or early evening, lasting 2-4 hours. Meetings may be located in various parts of the County, including an annual, full-day Retreat, generally on a Saturday in October, if needed and appropriate. From time to time a special meeting may be called to deal with an item that cannot be postponed until the next scheduled meeting.

The Commission Chair and Vice Chair are elected annually and serve a one-(calendar) year term. Duties and responsibilities of Commission Chair include:

- a. reviewing and approving agendas and meeting materials
- b. presiding at/conducting meetings
- c. appointing Chairs of standing and ad hoc Committees
- d. presenting reports to the full Commission
- e. carrying out any other duties/activities delegated by the Commission
- f. representing the Commission at public or other meetings.

The By-Laws provide that the Vice Chair acts as Chair if the Chair is unavailable and presides at meetings when the Chair is not present, and has the powers and performs the duties delegated to him/her by the Chair.

From time to time, the Commission forms ad hoc committees, work groups or task forces and may request one or more Commissioners to serve on these bodies.

- B. **Assignments** – The Commission also has 3 areas in which Commission members are asked to participate. Those areas are: Policy and Oversight Committee, Funding/Legislative Representation, and Program/Community Representation. The Commission Chair appoints Commission Members to one of the 3 areas. Each of the 3 areas are summarized below and detailed in the “First 5 Solano Commission and Committee Structure.”

1. Policy and Oversight Committee - The Committee meets up to 8 times/year for 2-3 hours.

The Committee Chair is appointed by the Commission Chair. The Committee Chair and members serve a minimum of one year and may serve indefinitely. Duties and Responsibilities of Committee Chair includes:

- a. reviewing and approving agendas and meeting materials
 - b. presiding at/conducting meetings
 - c. presenting reports to the full Commission
 - d. representing the Commission at public or other meetings
2. Funding/Legislative Representation - Engaging in substantive policy, funding, legislative and systems change activities to inform stakeholders of the importance of the early years on lifelong success.

 3. Program/Community Representation - Engaging in substantive program or community support activities to promote the alignment of Commission/Community priorities, foster the free flow of information and promote system change¹.

¹ With the understanding that Commissioners represent First 5 Solano and its Strategic Plan Priorities, Goals, Results and objectives.



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

DATE: October 5, 2023

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Gene Ibe, Program Manager

SUBJ: **Public Hearing: FY2022/23 Annual Report**

Motion: **Approve the First 5 Solano Submission to First 5 California for the FY2022/23 Annual Report**

Each year, the First 5 California Children and Families Commission is required by law to submit to the Legislature and the Governor a report outlining the activities and accomplishments of both the state First 5 Commission and the 58 local First 5 county commissions.

The First 5 Solano submission to First 5 California for its FY2022/23 Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with state requirements for submission by the deadline of October 31, 2023. The report includes a fiscal report, "aggregate data" by program category (service counts and demographics), as well as a snapshot of evaluation activities and system level activities.

As the First 5 California Annual Report submission requirements are relatively narrow and prescriptive following the required elements for state Commission, the report also includes FY2022/23 Initiative Snapshots outlining the Commission's programs and includes performance information and qualitative data to give a fuller picture of the Commission's investments; and, a Systems Change Evaluation Report which provides an in depth picture of the continued implementation of the Commission's Systems Change Action Plan.

[Attachment A:](#) First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Annual Report

[Attachment B:](#) FY2022/23 Annual Report Presentation

October 19, 2023

COMMISSIONERS

Tyffany Wanberg

Chair

Lisette Estrella-Henderson

Amy Fabi

Erin Hannigan

Gerald Huber

Tiffanee Jones

Neely McElroy

Nimat Shakoor-Grantham

Nikila Walker-Gibson

Jackie Thu-Huong Wong
First 5 California
2389 Gateway Oaks Dr, Ste 260
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Ms. Wong,

First 5 Solano is pleased to provide its submission to First 5 CA for its FY2022/23 Annual Report. During FY2022/23, First 5 Solano and its partner grantees:

- * Served over 13,500 Solano residents.
- * Continued implementation of a new project in collaboration with the Vallejo Unified School District, Child Start, the Solano County of Education, and Fighting Back Partnership, and local early learning and care providers to establish the Vallejo Early Learning Center (ELC) at a shuttered school site in Vallejo. The ELC will provide 300 early learning and care slots, along with comprehensive services for families.
- * Building upon the Vallejo First 5 Center's success, partnered with the City of Fairfield to establish a second First 5 Center which is expected to open in Spring 2025.
- * Continued countywide implementation of the *Triple P Positive Parenting Program* through seven agencies serving 1,270 families. 99% of participating parents reported improved knowledge/skills related to parenting.
- * 2,186 calls from families were assisted through the *Help Me Grow Solano* call line; 4,319 referrals to services were provided to families.
- * Launched a countywide research, inquiry, and analysis to determine existing and potential impacts of UPK expansion.
- * Continued participation in First 5 California's IMPACT and Home Visiting Coordination programs.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 707-784-1332. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Michele Harris
Executive Director, First 5 Solano



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

FIRST 5 SOLANO

FY2022/23 Annual Performance Report

INTRODUCTION

The First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Annual Performance Report provides a snapshot of the performance of the Commission's investments across initiatives and programs in the Strategic Plan Priority areas:

Health & Well-Being Promotes all children being born healthy and maintaining optimal health	Early Childhood Learning & Development Supports high quality early care and education and school readiness	Family Support & Parent Education Strengthens families, provides safe and stable environments for children and support children's development	Systems Change Strategic effort to ensure early childhood systems are strong, integrated, sufficiently resourced and equitable
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First 5 Solano grantees report progress on a quarterly basis for Performance Measures. The First 5 Solano Commission utilizes a Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework, describing the results of the efforts using the following:



How much did we do?



How well did we do it?

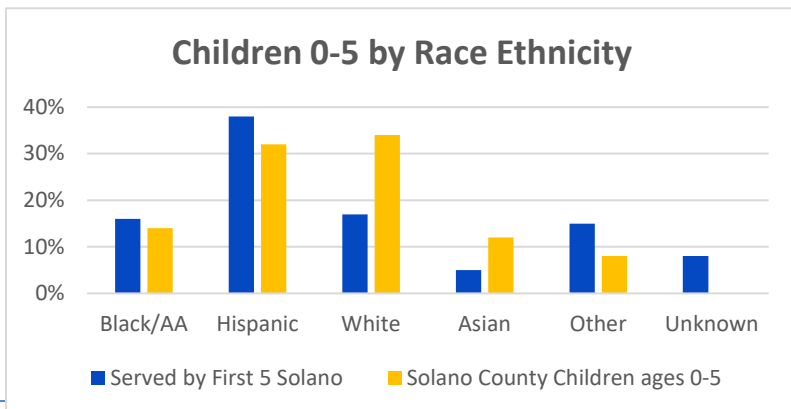


Is anyone **Better off**?

Overall, grantees achieved 98% of 103 Performance Measures across all contracts, which is higher than the grantee performance in the previous Fiscal Year.

Demographics

During FY2022/23, 13,753 residents received services from First 5 Solano, a 6% increase from FY2021/22. Of the total served, 52% (7,185) were children ages 0-5, 46% (6,293) were parents, caregivers and other primary family members, and 2% (275) were providers of services for children ages 0-5.



When compared to the overall Solano County 0-5 population, the majority of children who received services from First 5 Solano identified as Hispanic.

Almost one-fourth (22%) of children served identified as Spanish-speaking, and 74% of children served identified as English-speaking. Other languages reported included Mandarin and Vietnamese.

TRIPLE P SOLANO

FY2022/23 Outcomes



Triple P is an evidence-based parenting program that has been shown to strengthen families and improve children's developmental outcomes. The program offers varying levels of support, depending on families' needs. First 5 Solano funds classes and consultations throughout the county at three different levels: Level 2 seminars for large groups; Level 3 consultations with families who have children with mild/moderate behavioral challenges; and more intensive Level 4 group and individual positive parenting training sessions for families with greater needs. Triple P services are co-funded by Solano County Mental Health Services Act.



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

- **157 Level 2** seminars with **832** attendees
- **217** parents attended **Level 3 Consultations**
- **34 Level 4 Groups** with **180** attendees
- **41** parents attended **Level 4 Individual**

Solano County Triple P Providers

- Bay Area Community Resources
- Catholic Charities Yolo-Solano
- Child Start
- Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
- Parents by Choice
- Rio Vista CARE
- Solano Family & Children's Services



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

Staffing

- 22 new facilitators were trained across multiple levels of interventions and accredited by Triple P America.

Program Achievements

- Recognition of Positive Parenting Awareness Month in January 2023 by California State Assembly, Solano County Board of Supervisors and First 5 Solano Commission
- Provision of Triple P via in-person and virtual format allowed parents flexibility to attend sessions during the pandemic, increasing parent engagement.

Participant Satisfaction

- 99% of Level 4 participants would recommend this program to another parent
- 99% of Level 4 participants rated the program "excellent" or "good"



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

Pre and post-participant surveys showed that nearly all parents improved in their parenting knowledge and skills.

"I liked that other parents shared age-appropriate ways to manage our children's behavior." -Triple P participant

PERCENT OF PARENTS WITH IMPROVED PARENTING SKILLS



N = 832 (Level 2); 217 (Level 3); 180 (Level 4 Group); 41 (Level 4 Ind)

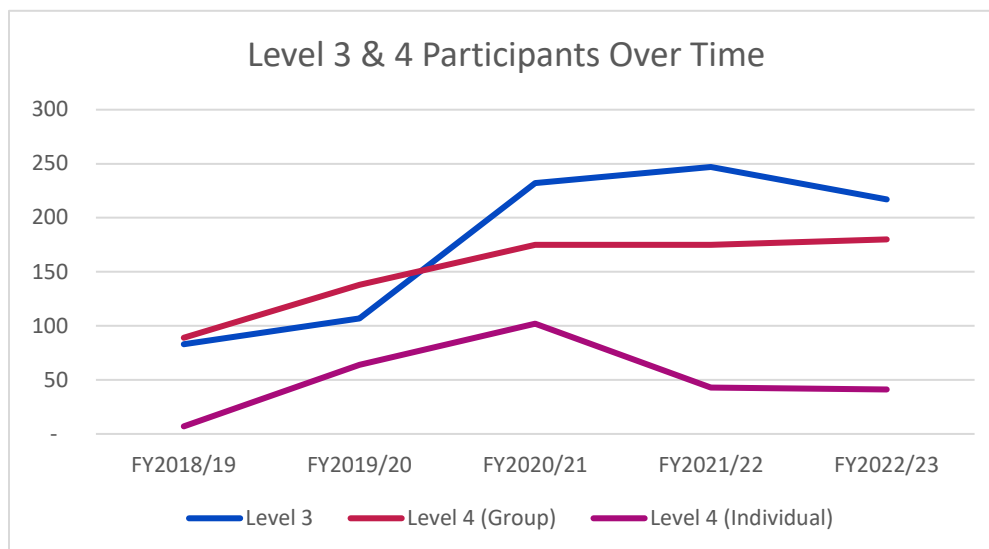
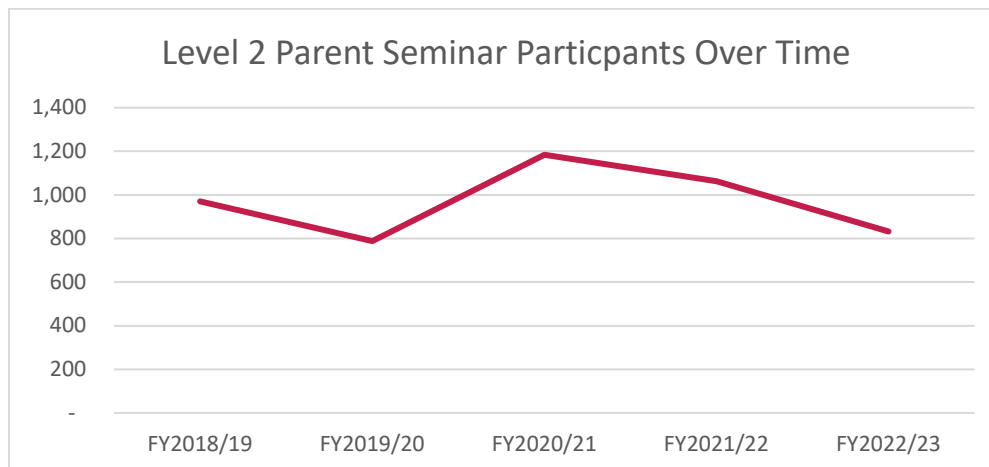
TRIPLE P SOLANO

FY2022/23 Outcomes

SERVICES OVER TIME

With funding from the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission and Solano County Mental Health Services Act, the Triple P Parent Education Program has been offered as an evidence-based parenting education strategy throughout the county for the last five years. FY2018/19 was an implementation year and involved a significant amount of training for new facilitators to become accredited in Solano's interventions. Full implementation began in FY2019/20 but was complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which required transitioning services to a virtual environment. Triple P partners found ways to deliver services safely with COVID-19 precautions in FY2020/21, and services increased. In FY2021/22, the number of Level 2 participants showed a slight reduction, while Level 3 and Level 4 Group increased or remained steady. Level 4 Individual services showed a significant reduction, as one agency providing these services experienced a shift in agency objectives, which did not include provision of parenting education via Triple P. In FY2022/23, one provider offering Level 2 and Level 3 had a staff reduction and ended provision of services, resulting in fewer participants overall. Level 4 Group and Level 4 Individual services remained steady, illustrating parents' interest in engaging in more intensive interventions.

Number of Parent Participants in Triple P Interventions



QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

FY2022/23 Outcomes



IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) is a quality improvement program funded primarily from a grant from First 5 California. These funds are braided with funds from the California Department of Education and other funds to support Quality Counts Solano. Quality Counts Solano is delivered by Solano County Office of Education and supports quality early learning environments through professional development, coaching support, and technical assistance. In addition, the **Raising a Reader** book sharing program is offered to early childhood education programs to increase literacy and family engagement among high-risk children.



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

IMPACT/Quality Counts

- 44 early learning sites participated in Quality Counts Solano, including 9 newly enrolled this year.
- 9 Early Childhood Mental Health Consultations with providers were completed for children with behavior and social emotional concerns.
- 120 participants attended the 2022 In-Person ECE Conference hosted by Solano County Office of Education.

Raising a Reader

- 1,331 children participated in Raising a Reader, with 45 sites and 66 implementers offering the program.
- 46 Implementers (at least 1 from each site) completed an annual Raising a Reader survey.



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

IMPACT/Quality Counts

- The 2022 Quality Counts Early Education Conference was offered in person at Solano Community College. The theme was “*Let’s Do This...Re-Invigorating Joy with Passion and Purpose*” with a keynote address from Dr. Crystal McClendon-Gourdine. Attendees also had the opportunity to choose from a variety of breakout sessions.
- Enrolled more sites than originally scheduled, an additional ECMH consultation was added, and providers continued to report beneficial consultations for managing sites and classroom.

Raising a Reader

- Implementers reported that Raising a Reader has provided them with opportunities to connect with families in so many ways and enjoy the experience of home -to-school relationships.



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

IMPACT/Quality Counts

- 100% of sites developed quality improvement plans and 100% made at least one change to enhance the quality of their program, such as supporting the National Association for the Education of Young Children’s (NAEYC) “Week of the Young Child” through promoting and sharing developmentally appropriate activities with the early learning and care community.

Raising a Reader

- 91% of staff reported children were excited about receiving the red book bag

QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

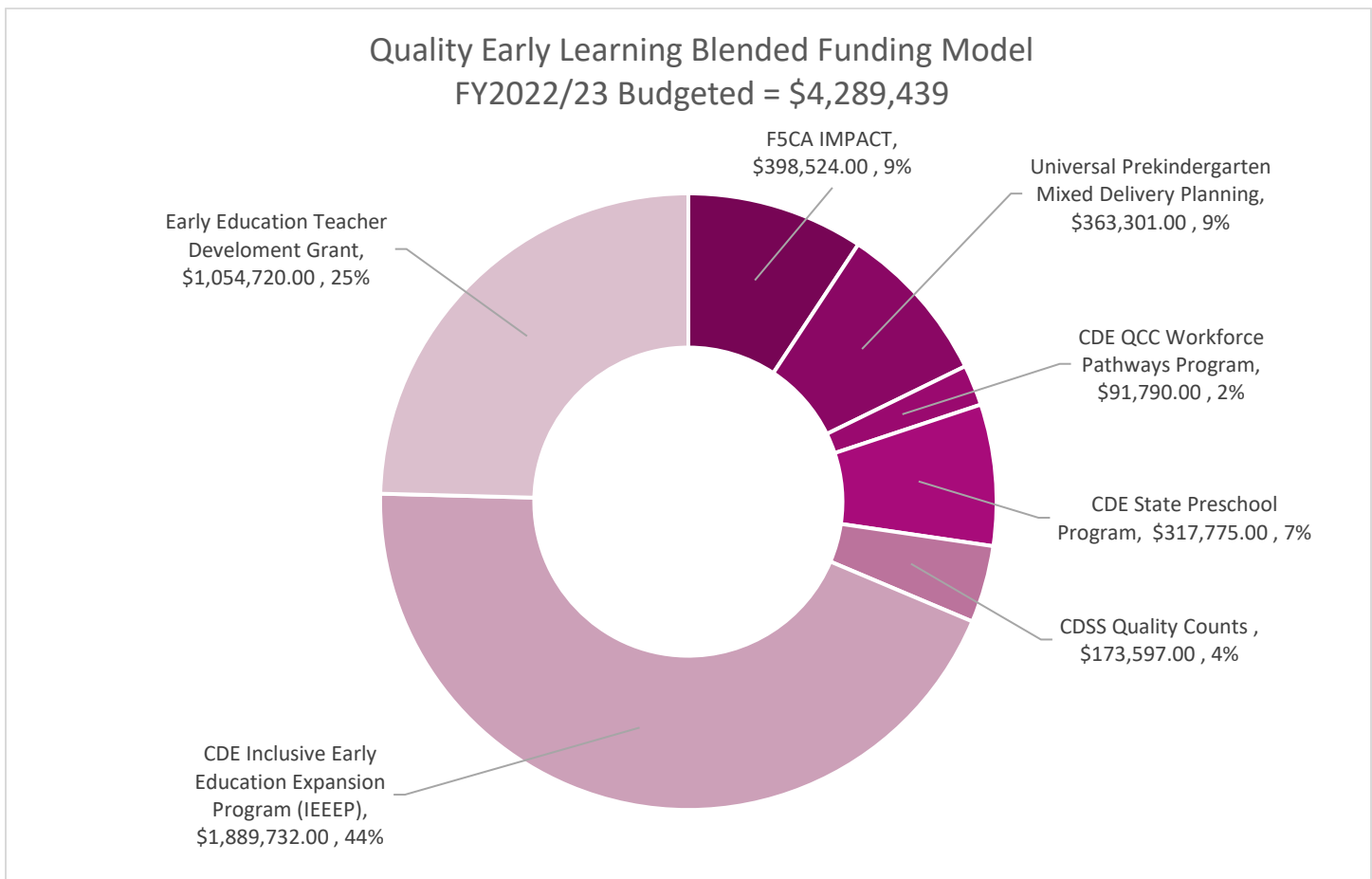
FY2022/23 Outcomes

UTILIZING A BLENDED FUNDING MODEL

Since 2015, First 5 California has provided funding for the IMPACT program to partner First 5 California and local First 5 county commissions with the state's Quality Counts California system. The next iteration, IMPACT 2020, allowed systems to continue to evolve throughout California through FY2022/23. This timeframe served as a transitional period for First 5 California and First 5 county commissions as the state's role in quality improvement and workforce support continues to grow, and the Governor's master plan for early learning and care was written and is now being implemented. IMPACT Legacy, an extension of funding for IMPACT activities, is said to be the final cycle to fund this program through 2025. For IMPACT Legacy, the First 5 Solano Commission elected to direct funding directly to the Solano County Office of Education. As such, this will be the last report included in the First 5 Solano Annual Reports on this program.

IMPACT operates as a component of a quality early learning system which also includes multiple grants from the California Department of Education and the California Department of Social Services to provide support to different types of early care and learning programs, such as, home-based family childcare, center-based programs and preschool.

In Solano County, First 5 Solano partners with the Solano County Office of Education who delivers the program utilizing a blended funding model. Below is a chart of the blended funding that supports this program, including educational and career advancement opportunities for the early childhood education mixed-delivery workforce and expansion of universal prekindergarten programs.



PRE-KINDERGARTEN ACADEMIES

FY2022/23 Outcomes



Pre-Kindergarten Academies provide quality early education experiences for children entering kindergarten, with a focus on children who have not participated in pre-school or have other high-risk factors. Pre-K Academies are offered for four weeks in the summer before school starts and include parent engagement activities to connect families to school environments. First 5 Solano data consistently shows significant increases in children's abilities over the short-term program. While pre-k academies are not a replacement for preschool, they do help children with no prior preschool experience fill a gap in learning prior to kindergarten entry.



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

- First 5 Solano ramped down the pre-k academy work this year, as universal pre-kindergarten (a.k.a. Transitional Kindergarten) is now becoming available through the public-school system
- 14 pre-k academies (lowered from 20) were offered over the summer, providing classrooms that could accommodate 24 children for 4-week sessions



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

- First 5 Solano data consistently shows significant increases in children's abilities over the short-term program. While pre-k academies are not a replacement for preschool, they do help children with no prior preschool experience fill a gap in learning prior to kindergarten entry



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

- Pre-K Academies have consistently improved children's readiness for kindergarten. Over the 4 weeks, children learned so that on a pre/post survey they could demonstrate that they were "nearly ready" or "ready to go" to kindergarten.
- Parents benefited from the various family engagement activities offered by the academies.

"The children were more engaged than the prior years."

-Pre-K Academy teacher

PRE-KINDERGARTEN ACADEMIES

FY2022/23 Outcomes

UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN UPDATE

Solano County Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Impact: Research, Inquiry & Analysis

The expansion of Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) (aka Transitional Kindergarten) began with a planning year in the 2021-2022 school year with full expansion by 2025-2026. This expansion has an impact on multiple sectors of Solano County's Early Learning and Care (ELC) mixed-delivery system, including family childcare, private childcare centers, and state preschool programs such as those operated by Local Education Agencies, community-based organizations, and Head Start. Families will also experience impacts of UPK implementation.

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission recognized that establishing a new grade was likely going to impact childcare and early learning providers with this sweeping change, as soon all 4-year olds would be eligible for free UPK through the public-school system. The Commission has partnered with the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) to conduct countywide research, inquiry, and analysis to determine existing and potential impacts of UPK expansion. This study will include cross-departmental collaboration of SCOE staff with specialized expertise, and external partners such as Applied Survey Research (ASR), Childcare Resource & Referral, Child Start, Inc., the Solano Childcare Planning Council, and others.

HELP ME GROW SOLANO

FY2022/23 Outcomes



Help Me Grow (HMG) Solano, an evidence-based program operated by Solano Family & Children's Services, provides a centralized access point to connect young children and families to community-based services. Family navigators provide education and support to families, referrals to resources, and follow up to ensure linkages are successful. HMG Solano also provides developmental screenings, Triple P Parent Education, and community outreach. One call, that's all! Call 844-501-KIDS.



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

- 2,186 calls from families were received through the HMG Solano call line; 4,319 referrals to services were provided to families.
- 251 families with more than one high risk factor were provided family navigation.
- 360 developmental screenings were administered electronically, and 257 screenings were completed in person for a total of 617 screenings completed.
- There were 66 new resources added to the Help Me Grow database.
- HMG Solano staff engaged with 48 new healthcare providers to inform them of services provided by HMG Solano.



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

- 90% of callers were provided with at least one referral to a program or service.
- HMG Solano provided over 617 developmental screenings which resulted in 251 high risk referrals for significant concerns.



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

- 90% of screenings that identify a significant concern/high risk were referred to an appropriate community agency.

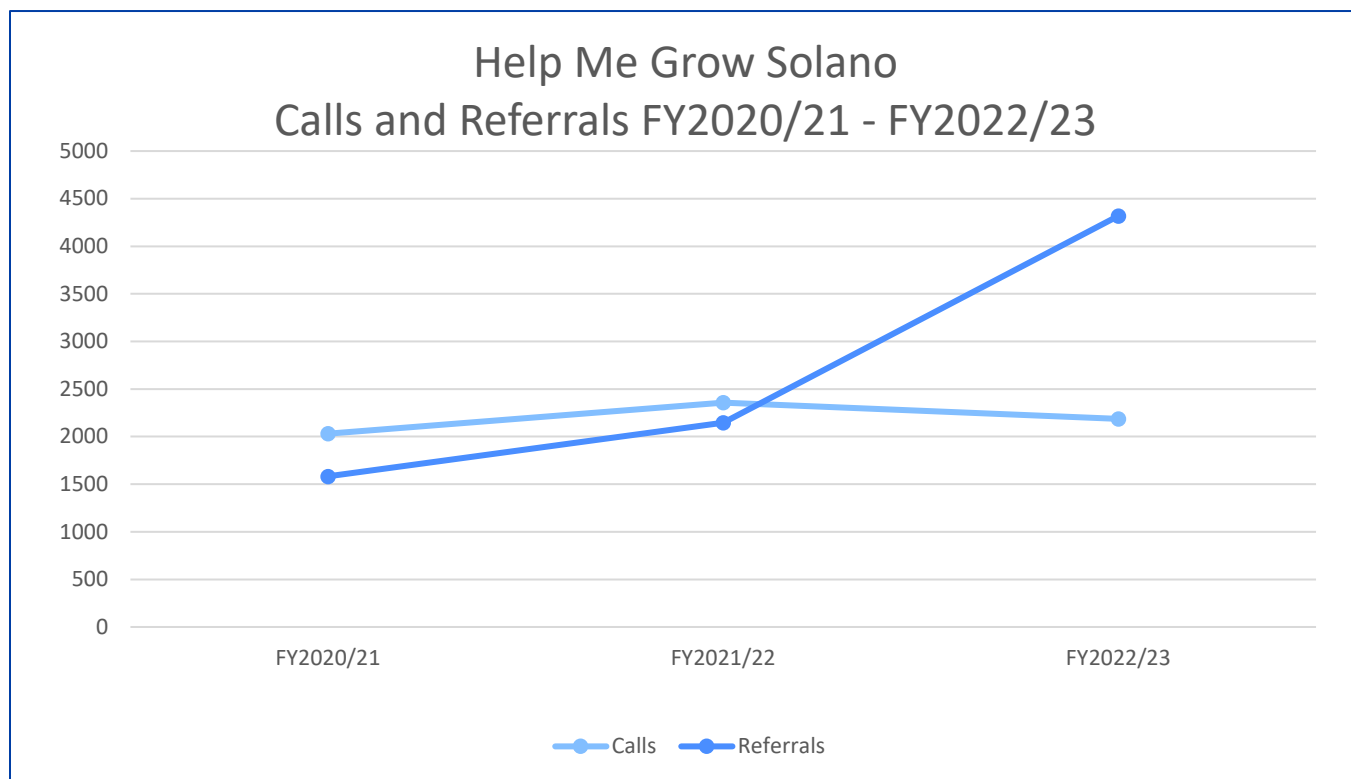
A mom contacted HMG requesting pre-school providers for her child. She was already in our SFCS subsidy program and needed to find a provider that was either close to her home in Vallejo or close to work in San Francisco. The HMG Family Navigator (FN) linked her to the SFCS Resource & Referral (R&R) line to receive a list of providers in Vallejo and the mom accepted. The FN also provided the mom with contact information for a R&R agency in San Francisco as well. During a follow up, the mom informed the FN that she had been calling the providers on the list provided and most of them either did not return her call or did not have any openings, so the FN offered assistance. The FN called several providers and put together a list of options for the mom that had openings. The following week, the mom informed the FN that she had finally found a great provider, her child was going to start pre-school immediately, and thanked the FN for assisting with those calls.

HELP ME GROW SOLANO

FY2022/23 Outcomes

CONNECTIONS OVER TIME

Help Me Grow (HMG) Solano continues to support families through their call line by providing resources and referrals to appropriate agencies, and follow-up to ensure that linkages are successful. In FY2022/23 HMG Solano the number of calls received remained stable and there was an increase in referrals assigned.



Success Story

HMG received a connection form through the SFCS website stating a mom had concerns about Autism. A FN contacted mother and she mentioned she has been trying to get her son assessed with a community partner and has submitted several applications since last year but no one has contacted her. The FN offered to contact the community partner and submit a direct referral on the child's behalf. The FN informed the mother that they will keep in contact until they know she has been connected to the other agency. When the FN did the follow up call, mom was with tears saying that she couldn't thank HMG enough on how fast she was contacted by the community partner once the referral was sent.

VALLEJO FIRST 5 CENTER

FY2022/23 Outcomes



The Vallejo First 5 Center is an innovative place-based hub that promotes and supports healthy behavior, social and emotional development, and school readiness of children, as well as providing parents with the tools they need to develop positive parent-child relationships and be connected to other families for peer-to-peer support. The Center opened in February 2020, and services are generously co-funded by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Solano County Mental Health Services Act, and Kaiser Permanente.

HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

- 1,770 individuals, made up of 906 children and 864 parents/caregivers, participated in at least one class, activity or event, a 30% increase of participants from last year.
- The Community Resource Specialist provided consultations to 389 parents and caregivers, connecting them with community resources to meet their families' needs.
- Developmental screenings were completed for 201 children and 65 children who screened "at-risk" were connected with appropriate resources.
- Hosted 6 community events, including A Visit From the Grinch, First 5 Center 3rd Birthday Party, Coat Drive and Distribution, Produce Distribution and Sensory Activities, and a Family Resource Fair.



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

- Class sizes continue to increase as the First 5 Center staff continues their outreach.
- 99% of parents who received a referral from the Community Resource Specialist reported that they had their needs met.



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

- 100% of families who completed a class series and completed a post series survey demonstrated increased knowledge and awareness of healthy behaviors and activities such as 1) Increased awareness of healthy eating for kids; 2) Increased ability to implement age-appropriate activities; and, 3) Increased ability to provide preschool and kindergarten readiness activities.

Whole Child – Whole Family Approach

As part of the whole child – whole family approach to services, families who visit the Center can bring siblings to classes. A mother brought her one-year old to a "Baby Class" which focused on social emotional and fine-gross motor skills. This mother also brought her older son, who is speech delayed, to the class. The mother was concerned because her son does not like to sit for long periods of time. As the babies began to paint and sing, he began to finger paint with trucks, building his fine motor skills; and, he enjoyed singing along with the nursery rhymes. He even gave his little sister a hug! This approach supports the whole family and builds family bonds.

VALLEJO FIRST 5 CENTER

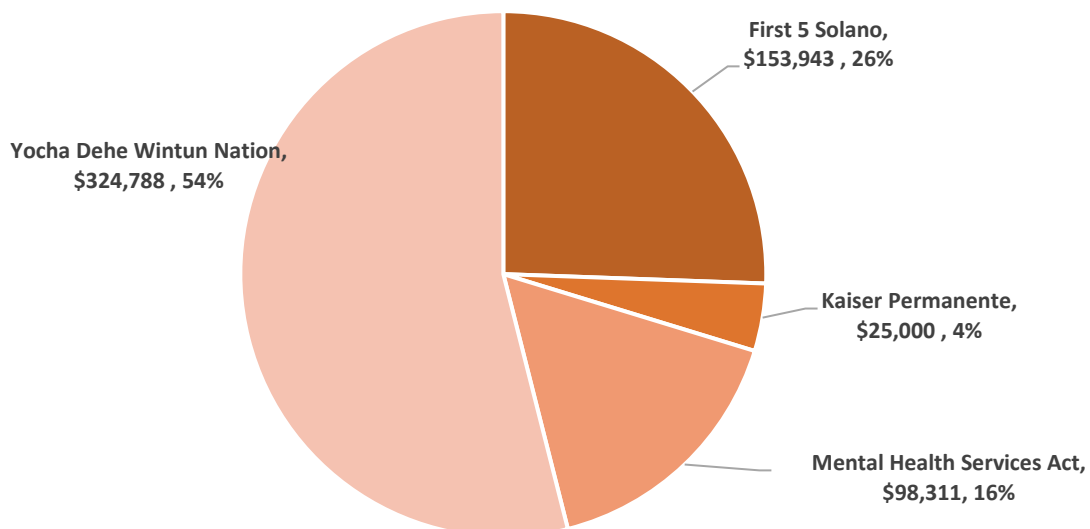
FY2022/23 Outcomes

UTILIZING A BLENDED FUNDING MODEL

In 2017, when the Commission pursued development of a First 5 Center, the Commission envisioned a center which would take a multi-disciplinary, whole child, whole family approach. The Commission was also facing a significant decrease in annual revenues, so it acknowledged that it could not fully fund the tenant improvements or programmatic implementation of the Center. First 5 Solano Commissioners and staff have prioritized creating a blending funding model for the Center and made it a reality.

This innovative Center would not be possible without the generous support from our co-funders, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Solano County Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), and Kaiser Permanente. The FY2022/23 expenditure by funding source is below.

Vallejo First 5 Center Blended Funding Model
FY2022/23 Total Spent: \$602,042



Family receives resources and services in a time of need

A mother and caregiver of 6 children came to the Center to request resources. This mother had recently been appointed as a guardian of 4 children who are under her care due to their parents being incarcerated. This family was enrolled in the Diaper Bank Program, and received several basic needs items, including clothing, shoes, infant formula, toys, and hygiene products. The Community Resource Specialist provided warm hand-offs to several local agencies to address the family's needs, including rental assistance, and child care. This family expressed sincere gratitude to the Center staff for the support and assistance.

ANNUAL GRANTS

FY2022/23 Outcomes

The Annual Grants program is designed for one-time projects to address the needs of children ages 0-5, their parents/caregivers, and/or providers of services in Solano County. Annual Grants are intended to support a wide-variety of activities that meet one or more of the following criteria: fills a community gap, pilots a new or innovative idea, and/or addresses a time-sensitive community need. All projects proposed for the Annual Grants program must support First 5 Solano's vision that *all Solano County children are healthy, eager to learn, and nurtured by strong families in safe and inclusive communities.*



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

- Engaged 7 new early care providers and organizations.
- Provided services to 898 children, 492 parents/caregivers and 61 providers.



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

- 49 providers received reflective practices and regulatory capacity training to address staff needs.
- Over 200 parents/caregivers received parent education classes and respite childcare sessions to parents /caregivers of children 0-5 to address self-care needs.
- Over 250 children ages 0-5 received Storytime and multicultural books to read at home.
- 10 parents/caregivers of children 0-5 participated in the Parenting After Trauma Program.
- Over 120 children ages 2-4 to increased physical activity and socialization skills through recreational programming.
- Over 200 parents/caregivers participated in parent engagement workshops and the Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten (TK/K) enrollment fair.



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

- *Loving Care for Kids Traveling Literacy* project has allowed providers to elevate their knowledge about multiculturalism in their programs. They receive donated books from providers, parents and caregivers to help continue the project.
- *City of Suisun* now has demonstrated success in providing recreational programming to younger children, which will provide staff with data to advocate to the city to continue programming.



Loving Care for Kids Storytime



City of Suisun Drumming Class

OTHER FIRST 5 SOLANO INITIATIVES

FY2022/23 OUTCOMES

Early Childhood Mental Health Treatment

Solano County Health & Social Services contracts with community providers to provide mental health services and treatment to Medi-Cal eligible children ages 0-5 with identified social-emotional and behavioral needs through the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Program.

FY2022/23 Key Performance Measures

- ✓ 150 children received EPSDT mental health services
- ✓ 96% of 128 children in on-going treatment evaluated for their 6-month review demonstrated improvement in at least one stated treatment goal

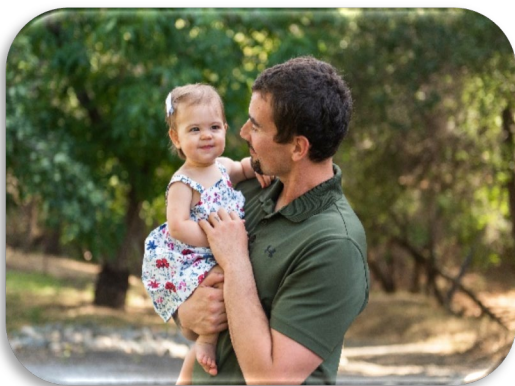
Success

A 5-year old foster child was referred to mental health treatment services with Victor Community Support Services to learn how to manage transitions and express emotions effectively. After a few months of treatment, the child was able to describe his feelings and come up with solutions for nervousness and anxiety when experiencing new situations. The child is no longer in treatment and he and his foster family are creating new joyful memories together.



Family Support

In addition to the First 5 Center, the Commission provided funding for family support to Rio Vista CARE due to the high number of risk factors in the small, inland community. Services include case management, basic needs, financial literacy, and early childhood education activities.



FY2022/23 Key Performance Measures

- ✓ 50 families were provided case management with over 83% showing improvement in the multiple domains of the Family Development Matrix and the Protective Factors Survey
- ✓ 90% of families receiving basic needs/homeless resources remained in stable housing
- ✓ 16 families received guidance with financial budgeting tools and 100% developed/maintained a household budget
- ✓ 20 children participated in pre-kindergarten readiness activities with 100% of the children demonstrating increased school readiness

Success

A father of two young children, ages 4 and 7, came to Rio Vista CARE seeking assistance to pay for rent and utilities. He had recently been laid off from his job and was looking for resources to make ends meet. Staff at Rio Vista CARE assisted the father immediately with basic needs funding to pay his bills. Over the next two months, staff continued to work with him to improve his job search skills. The dad was able to secure full-time work with a local employer and is thankful for the support.



EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS CHANGE IN SOLANO COUNTY FY2022/23



INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEMS CHANGE

In 2015, the First 5 Solano Commission approved a new strategic plan, which included adding Systems Change as a priority area. The goal was to improve the efficiency of early childhood systems by assessing how the existing systems could be strengthened, integrated, expanded, and sustained. The systems change priority area was updated in the First 5 Solano 2023-2028 Strategic Plan to better reflect the First 5 Solano Commission's commitment to making early childhood systems more equitable. Equity is at the core of First 5 Solano's work; through data and evidence-informed strategies, it identifies and works towards eliminating opportunity gaps that prevent young children from reaching their potential. See summary to the right for the Commission's current systems change goal and results that underscore this objective. This report summarizes the progress First 5 Solano made towards early childhood systems change in FY2022/23.

GOAL 7 Early childhood systems are strong, integrated, sufficiently resourced, and equitable

- R12:** Systems are strengthened with the increased capacity of providers
- R13:** Systems are integrated with cross-sector partnerships and aligned goals, services, and outcomes
- R14:** Systems are expanded and sustained with financial resources and legislative or policy changes
- R15:** Systems are transformed so access, experiences, and outcomes are equitable for all young children and families

HIGHLIGHTS BY RESULTS AREA



Systems are strengthened with increased capacity of providers

- First 5 Solano dedicated a total of \$160,000 towards its sixth year of Annual Grants with the purpose of filling community gaps, addressing community disparities, and addressing time-sensitive community needs. Starting in FY2020/21, all potential applicants for Annual Grants were required to attend a one-on-one development session to discuss the problem they wanted to address and how the proposed project would solve the problem. In FY2022/23, 19 letters of intent were submitted, and First 5 Solano staff met virtually with these 19 potential applicants. Twelve applications were ultimately received and nine were recommended for funding. First 5 Solano staff and grantees agreed the grant development sessions continue to help applicants develop stronger proposals.
- First 5 Solano continued to increase provider capacity by hosting/co-hosting trainings and conferences on parenting and Early Care Education (ECE). For instance, in collaboration with the Solano County of Office and Education, First 5 Solano sponsored an annual ECE conference for 120 participants with bilingual workshops on a variety of topics. Additionally, First 5 Solano funded 22 providers to be trained in the evidence-based Triple P - Positive Parenting Program.
- In FY2022/23, 44 early learning and care providers participated in Quality Counts and received coaching and early childhood mental health consultation to improve the quality of the care they provide.

Spotlight on Increased Provider Capacity via Training

In collaboration with Applied Survey Research (ASR), First 5 Solano hosted a book launch and training from Adam Luecking on the Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework. RBA is a framework First 5 Solano and its partners use to tell the story of the difference they are making in the community. Luecking joined First 5 Solano and 24 local leaders from government and philanthropy to discuss his book, *Social Sector Hero - How Government and Philanthropy can Fund for Impact*, and how they can use RBA to better demonstrate community impact. Jackie Wong, Executive Director of First 5 California, also joined in the discussion, offering examples of how the RBA framework is used to demonstrate program success at the state-level.



Systems are integrated with cross systems understanding, resource sharing, referral and collaboration

- To increase provider capacity and improve resource sharing, First 5 Solano is sponsoring a business management system that child care providers can use at no cost to them. This will help providers become more sustainable through better management of their enrollment and financial data. Based on the needs and requests of participants, the system has been customized to better serve home-based child care programs. Currently 20 child care programs are using the system.
- First 5 Solano is continuing to plan for a Vallejo Early Learning Center (ELC) to open in 2025 on the site of the now-closed Beverly Hills Elementary School in South Vallejo. The ELC is a collaborative partnership between First 5 Solano, the Vallejo City Unified School District, Child Start, the Solano County Office of Education, and Fighting Back Partnership, and will offer child care and early learning opportunities for nearly 300 young children in the county. An on-site Family Resource Center will also be available for families attending the ELC, and child care coaches will assist the ELC's child care providers who will include Head Start, Early Head Start, and private providers.
- In collaboration with Solano County Health and Social Services, First 5 Solano continued its third year of implementation of its Home Visiting Collaborative to improve coordination and alignment across systems serving young children. The Year 3 final performance report, highlighting project successes and lessons learned, was submitted to First 5 California in June 2023.



- In partnership with the City of Fairfield, First 5 Solano is launching a First 5 Center in Fairfield, slated to open in spring 2025. The city is constructing a 6,300 square foot building within the new North Texas Recreation Facility. The Center will also have an outdoor play area appropriate for children ages 0-5 and their families.
- First 5 Solano convened or played a key role (as a funder and/or part of the planning team) in four countywide collaboratives to ensure the coordination of services for young children and families. Examples of these collaboratives include Solano Kids Thrive and Quality Counts Early Learning Consortium. First 5 Solano also participated in 14 other cross-system collaboratives held throughout the county. Goals for these collaboratives included increasing cross-system referrals, decreasing duplication of services, and addressing gaps and barriers to services.

Spotlight on Integrated Systems: First 5 Center Tour

At recent meetings, Bay Area Executive Directors have discussed the success of the First 5 Center model and the potential to expand this model in the region. To support expansion of the model, First 5 Solano and First 5 Contra Costa hosted a First 5 Center tour for the Bay Area First 5 Executive Directors, First 5 staff members, Commissioners, and other guests. This event included tours of the Vallejo, Easy Contra Costa, and Antioch First 5 Centers, along with program observations and conversations with staff. Commissioner Lisette Estrella-Henderson and First 5 Solano Executive Director Michele Harris discussed effective approaches for developing centers that could be replicated by other First 5's.

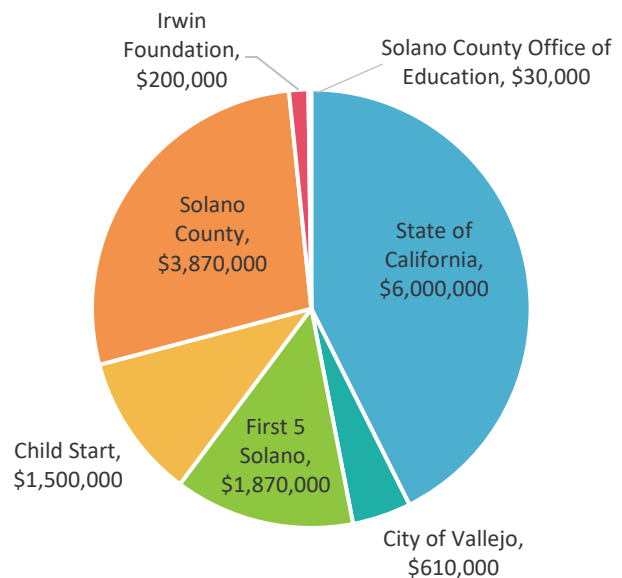


Systems are expanded and sustained with financial resources and legislative or policy changes

- In FY2022/23, First 5 Solano submitted or supported the submission of 10 grants totaling \$10,025,000. As of June 30, 2023, four of these grants totaling \$2,930,000 have been awarded, and five grants totaling \$7,025,000 were pending.
- In FY2022/23 First 5 Solano began raising funds for the proposed Vallejo Early Learning Center. In March 2023, First 5 Solano submitted a \$3 million federal earmark request through the County Administrator's office to support the Early Learning Center, \$1 million of which was awarded from Senator Dodd to fund renovation of the ELC. By the end of the fiscal year, a total \$14,080,000 had been raised for the ELC.
- As part of First 5 Solano's continued efforts to raise the profile of Solano County and network with Bay Area funders, quarterly meetings were held with the funders who have expressed an interest in supporting the work being done by First 5 Solano and its community partners.
- First 5 Solano Commissioners and staff also continued to build relationships with state and local policymakers. Activities included:

- Participating in the First 5 Association Virtual Advocacy Day in April, where 110 First 5 advocates engaged in 100 legislative visits. The offices of Senator Bill Dodd and Assemblymember Lori Wilson participated in the event.
- Conducting two legislative visits – one with Supervisor Wanda Williams and Commissioner Erin Hannigan and one with Assemblymember Lori Wilson and Commissioner Hannigan – which included tours of the Vallejo First 5 Center.
- Participating in a State Budget ask organized by Triple P America that requested funding to support six public and community-based organizations across the state, including First 5 Solano, to increase access to positive parenting and family support services. The request was not adopted in the State Budget Plan, but Triple P America will continue its search for a sustainable funding source.

Vallejo Early Learning Center Blended Funding Committed Funding (in millions)





Systems are transformed so access, experiences, and outcomes are equitable for all young children and families.

- Through its investment in the Vallejo First 5 Center, Fairfield First 5 Center, and Vallejo ELC, First 5 Solano is demonstrating its commitment to provide significant resources in the most under-resourced areas of Solano County. The locations of these centers were chosen based on a geographic analysis of needs in the county to ensure that children who could benefit the most from services will have the easiest access to them.
- First 5 Solano also conducted an equity audit to evaluate the organization's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The audit was able to identify examples of First 5 Solano's commitment to equity and inclusion, but also areas where more work could be done, including:
 - Addressing barriers to language, transportation, and technology
 - Increasing diversity among staff
 - Increasing outreach to families who could benefit most from services

First 5 Solano will create an equity implementation plan to begin implementing recommendations from the audit in FY2023/24.

- First 5 Solano participated in a First 5 Network: Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) session to discuss REDI approaches in First 5 Commissions throughout the Bay Area region. This was an opportunity for Bay Area First 5 stakeholders to exchange lessons learned and share tools that have been developed. First 5 Solano staff will continue attending the REDI sessions and remains focused on centering race, equity, diversity, and inclusion in their work.

CONCLUSION

As this report shows, First 5 Solano is dedicated to advancing initiatives that will not only improve the lives of young children today, but will transform early childhood systems so access, experiences, and outcomes are equitable for all young children and families for years to come.





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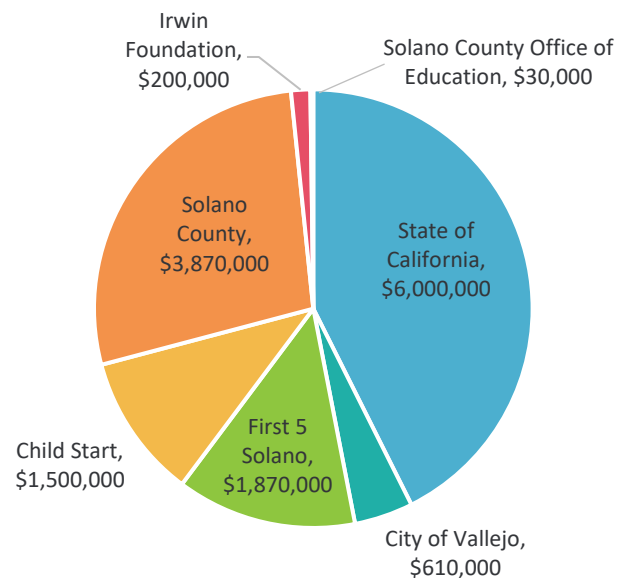


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- First 5 Solano Commissioners and staff also continued to build relationships with state and local policymakers. Activities included:

- Participating in the First 5 Association Virtual Advocacy Day in April, where 110 First 5 advocates engaged in 100 legislative visits. The offices of Senator Bill Dodd and Assemblymember Lori Wilson participated in the event.
- Conducting two legislative visits – one with Supervisor Wanda Williams and Commissioner Erin Hannigan and one with Assemblymember Lori Wilson and Commissioner Hannigan – which included tours of the Vallejo First 5 Center.
- Participating in a State Budget ask organized by Triple P America that requested funding to support six public and community-based organizations across the state, including First 5 Solano, to increase access to positive parenting and family support services. The request was not adopted in the State Budget Plan, but Triple P America will continue its search for a sustainable funding source.

Vallejo Early Learning Center Blended Funding Committed Funding (in millions)





Systems are transformed so access, experiences, and outcomes are equitable for all young children and families.

- Through its investment in the Vallejo First 5 Center, Fairfield First 5 Center, and Vallejo ELC, First 5 Solano is demonstrating its commitment to provide significant resources in the most under-resourced areas of Solano County. The locations of these centers were chosen based on a geographic analysis of needs in the county to ensure that children who could benefit the most from services will have the easiest access to them.
- First 5 Solano also conducted an equity audit to evaluate the organization's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The audit was able to identify examples of First 5 Solano's commitment to equity and inclusion, but also areas where more work could be done, including:
 - Addressing barriers to language, transportation, and technology
 - Increasing diversity among staff
 - Increasing outreach to families who could benefit most from services

First 5 Solano will create an equity implementation plan to begin implementing recommendations from the audit in FY2023/24.

- First 5 Solano participated in a First 5 Network: Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) session to discuss REDI approaches in First 5 Commissions throughout the Bay Area region. This was an opportunity for Bay Area First 5 stakeholders to exchange lessons learned and share tools that have been developed. First 5 Solano staff will continue attending the REDI sessions and remains focused on centering race, equity, diversity, and inclusion in their work.

CONCLUSION

As this report shows, First 5 Solano is dedicated to advancing initiatives that will not only improve the lives of young children today, but will transform early childhood systems so access, experiences, and outcomes are equitable for all young children and families for years to come.





Annual Report AR-1
Solano Revenue and Expenditure Summary
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Revenue Detail

Category	Amount
Tobacco Tax Funds	\$2,251,614
First 5 IMPACT 2020 Funds	\$214,375
Small Population County Augmentation Funds	\$0
Home Visiting Coordination Funds	\$16,860
Refugee Family Support Funds	\$0
Other First 5 California Funds	\$114,653
Other First 5 California Funds Description SSAN Program, \$114,653	
Other Public Funds	\$73,612
Other Public Funds Description Interfund services provided to County Administrator's Office - \$65,000. Operating TXR in - ARPA \$8,612	
Donations	\$300,042
Revenue From Interest Earned	\$183,471
Grants	\$512,361
Grants Description MHSA funds for Mental Health Services for children 0-5 487,361. Kaiser Grant, diaper services at First 5 Center \$25,000	
Other Funds	\$5,000,000
Other Funds Earmark from Senator Dodd for Early Learning Center	
Total Revenue	\$8,666,988

Improved Family Functioning

Service	Grantee	Program(s)	Children	Caregivers	Providers	Amount
General Family Support	CBO/Non-Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core Operating Support Playgroups Triple P 2-3 	906	864	0	\$602,042
General Family Support	Family Resource Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Applicable (Rio Vista CARE, Family Support Services, Pre-K readiness for children 2-4) 	20	44	0	\$37,042
General Family Support	CBO/Non-Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Applicable (Diaper Assistance at First 5 Center and 2 additional sites) 	2519	0	0	\$49,980
Reason for no population served: 2519 Diaper Kits were provided						
General Family Support	CBO/Non-Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triple P 2-3 	0	1049	0	\$233,643
Intensive Family Support	CBO/Non-Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triple P 4-5 	0	221	0	\$47,720
Intensive Family Support	Other Private/For Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Applicable (Provide a respite care program, providing temporary care to families/caregivers of children aged 0-5.) 	322	271	21	\$19,832
Intensive Family Support	CBO/Non-Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Applicable (Provide ACEs and trauma awareness, reduce stigma and increase access to trauma-informed approaches for at-risk individuals and their children in Solano County) 	12	10	1	\$20,000
Total						\$1,030,259

Service	Grantee	Program(s)	Children	Caregivers	Providers	Amount
Family Literacy and Book Programs	CBO/Non-Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Applicable (Celebrating Literacy, and read two (2) age-appropriate diversity books to children, ages 3 to 5 years) 	251	0	19	\$20,000
					Total	\$1,030,259

Improved Child Development

Service	Grantee	Program(s)	Children	Caregivers	Providers	Amount
Quality Early Learning Supports	County Office of Education/School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Counts California 	1331	0	173	\$410,914
Quality Early Learning Supports	CBO/Non-Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Applicable (Reflective Practice to select Lead Teachers, Associate Teachers, Classroom Aidees, Lead Caregivers, Caregivers, Home Visitors, Supervisors, Family Advocates, Managers and Mental Health Consultant) 	0	0	51	\$20,000
Early Learning Program Direct Costs	County Office of Education/School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preschool/Childcare 	227	0	0	\$109,138
Early Learning Program Direct Costs	CBO/Non-Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Applicable (Annual Grant to provide children's programming and literacy festival at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum) 	440	297	0	\$20,000
Early Learning Program Direct Costs	Other Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Applicable (Provide recreational activities to children 2-4 at no cost) 	121	0	0	\$20,000
Early Learning Program Direct Costs	County Office of Education/School District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Applicable (Provide parent engagement series for families of early learners, ages 3-5.) 	222	209	0	\$19,374
Total						\$599,426

Improved Child Health

Service	Grantee	Program(s)	Children	Caregivers	Providers	Unique Families	Amount
Early Intervention	CBO/Non-Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Coordination and Linkage 	617	2186	0	0	\$337,164
Early Intervention	County Health & Human Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Coordination and Linkage 	150	0	0	0	\$60,000
Total							\$397,164

Improved Systems Of Care

Service	Grantee	Program(s)	Amount
Policy and Public Advocacy	First 5 County Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Applicable (Staff and Internal System Change Efforts) 	\$288,000
Systems Building	First 5 County Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Applicable (Internal Programs and Staff Support for Program) 	\$581,328
Systems Building	CBO/Non-Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Applicable (Play 4 All Park, Accessible Park located in Vacaville, CA) 	\$360,000
Total			\$1,229,328

Expenditure Details

Category	Amount
Program Expenditures	\$3,256,177
Administrative Expenditures	\$505,326

Category	Amount
Evaluation Expenditures	\$80,925
Total Expenditures	\$3,842,428
Excess (Deficiency) Of Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	\$4,824,560

Other Financing Details

Category	Amount
Sale(s) of Capital Assets	\$0
Other	\$0
Total Other Financing Sources	\$0

Net Change in Fund Balance

Category	Amount
Fund Balance - Beginning	\$13,411,343
Fund Balance - Ending	\$18,235,903
Net Change In Fund Balance	\$4,824,560

Fiscal Year Fund Balance

Category	Amount
Nonspendable	\$51,000
Restricted	\$5,000,000
Committed	\$800,000
Assigned	\$5,773,144
Unassigned	\$6,611,759
Total Fund Balance	\$18,235,903

Expenditure Note

No data entered for this section as of 10/10/2023 12:21:11 PM.



Annual Report AR-2
Solano Demographic Worksheet
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Population Served

Category	Number
Children Less than 3 Years Old	3,035
Children from 3rd to 6th Birthday	2,721
Children – Ages Unknown (birth to 6th Birthday)	1,429
Primary Caregivers	6,293
Providers	275
Total Population Served	13,753

Primary Languages Spoken in the Home

Category	Number of Children	Number of Primary Caregivers
English	5,308	3,914
Spanish	1,602	1,436
Mandarin	3	4
Vietnamese	3	0
Unknown	43	856
Other - Specify with text box	226	83
Totals	7,185	6,293

Race/Ethnicity of Population Served

Category	Number of Children	Number of Primary Caregivers
Alaska Native/American Indian	104	115
Asian	387	294
Black/African-American	1,121	1,119
Hispanic/Latino	2,711	2,082
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	97	60
Other – Specify with text box	192	205
Two or more races	713	296
Unknown	614	1,128
White	1,246	994
Totals	7,185	6,293

Duplication Assessment

Category	Data
Degree of Duplication	20%
Confidence in Data	Somewhat confident
Additional Details (Optional)	

First 5 California Annual Report

AR-3 Evaluation Activities

Provide a description of evaluation activities completed, evaluation findings, and their policy impact during the fiscal year. If findings are published, provide the citation and web link (if available online). These activities should focus on all four Result Areas: Family Functioning, Improved Child Development, Improved Child Health, and Improved Systems of Care. Include evaluations of prior year programs conducted during the current fiscal year. (4,000 characters maximum)

In August 2022, First 5 Solano selected Navalta Media to conduct a Phase 1 equity audit of the Commission's work and provide a workplan for equity strategies focusing on internal processes. Navalta Media is led by Pati Navalta, a woman of color local to Solano County. Navalta Media's clients are innovators, change-makers, and industry leaders who balance purpose and profit. Navalta Media offers communications and media strategy and implementation, media training, crisis communications, writing and editing support with a key focus on goals, target audiences, and value alignment. Their portfolio of clients spans diverse industries and sectors, with the common through line of impact-driven work.

An equity audit is a systematic, comprehensive research method that evaluates an organization's performance, capacity, and effectiveness, with a focus on communications. Phase 1 of the equity audit has been underway since September 2022.

Navalta Media has completed the following elements of Phase 1 of the Equity Audit: conducting key informant interviews; conducting a comprehensive audit and review of external and internal documents and communications; and, preparing a report and recommendations. This was presented to the full Commission in June 2023, with implementation of recommendations slated for FY2023/24. Such findings and recommendations are as follows:

Key Findings from a survey of Commissioners and stakeholders:

1. There is alignment on equity and inclusion definitions
2. Respondents were able to identify examples of First 5 Solano's commitment to equity and inclusion in their work
3. Respondents identified areas where more work can be done:
 - a. Barriers to language, transportation and technology
 - b. Increasing diversity among staff
 - c. Increasing outreach to families that can benefit most from services
4. There was a racial divide among respondents who believe First 5 Solano Leadership is diverse

Key Findings on Content and Messaging:

1. Existing language and practices throughout First 5 Solano's communications that reflect commitment to DEI, but not consistent
2. Use of deficit language (rendering one group less than another group), "savior language", or words or phrases that are no longer in line with inclusive language
3. First 5 Solano's website is difficult to find and navigate
4. Need for language accessibility for all communications

Recommendations for First 5 Solano:

1. Use complete list of responders' recommendations to inform a discussion on barriers, set goals, and determine strategies and solutions
2. Define who Leadership is in First 5 Solano, how decisions are made and who the decisionmakers are

First 5 California Annual Report AR-3 Evaluation Activities

3. Create a library of internal equity-focused communications assets
4. Create First 5 Solano equity commitment statement and place it prominently and consistently in communications
5. Create a separate website from the County with a link back to the County
6. Engage with more partners and hire staff who can support translation needs and engage with more mono-lingual and non-English speaking families

The First 5 Solano Commission received these results at their June 2023 meeting.

The next section of work is Phase II, which consists of implementing the recommendations from the report. First 5 Solano now has a “Commitment to Equity” statement, and has contracted again with Navalta Media to:

1. Develop equity trainings that can be conducted with staff, commissioners and grantees.
2. Prepare content for a new website, which is currently in development at the County
3. Release a series of press releases or public media information regarding the work related to “First 5 Solano’s commitment to equity in action”
4. Refresh designs for First 5 Solano materials through a DEI lens, such as letterhead, PowerPoint deck template, and other external assets as needed, such as social media templates, newsletters, flyers, reports, etc.

Describe two or three highlights or accomplishments during the fiscal year. Examples may include efforts to address family resilience, health and development, quality early learning, sustainability and scale, or handling a community crisis. (2000 character maximum)

Reinvigorating a Community: How we took a shuttered Vallejo elementary school and are transforming it into a vibrant Early Learning Center, offering a variety of childcare options (300 spaces), supporting parent choice while also emphasizing high quality care across programs - so all children will leave our programs and enter school ready to learn.

Public school enrollment continues to decline, and districts find themselves closing schools. Meanwhile, the childcare system cannot keep up with the demand for high quality early learning spaces. A 2019 Solano study identified “lack of facilities” as the #1 barrier to childcare expansion. In 2020, First 5 Solano was asked to help relocate two Head Start preschool classrooms.

What started as a simple real estate search turned into purchasing an elementary school in a high needs neighborhood of Vallejo and converting it into an Early Learning Center. Funding was obtained from city, county, state and federal government, along with philanthropic partners, totaling an astounding \$14M to-date. In Winter 2023, the purchase will be finalized, with our local Head Start provider (Child Start) taking over as the property owner/operator. In early 2024, the renovations will begin, with a hard launch slated for Summer 2026.

Families will be welcomed to the Early Learning Center, complete a simple screening process and be linked to the appropriate public or private early learning programs. Families can participate in educational activities and peer-to-peer socialization activities. The campus will host events for the entire surrounding community, bringing to life a school in a neighborhood that has been historically

First 5 California Annual Report AR-3 Evaluation Activities

underserved. Plans include an outdoor and indoor STEAM lab/classroom, a children's library, childcare coaches and new play structures to engage children in healthy physical activity.

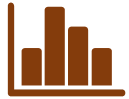
This project will turn an unfortunate outcome of a school closure into a thriving early learning campus that benefits the whole community.



FY2022/23 Annual Report



Annual Report Components



Performance Measures & Impact



Systems Change Update

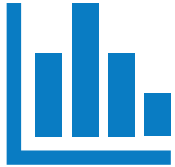


Fiscal



Demographics

Reporting Performance Results Based Accountability



How Much Did We Do?



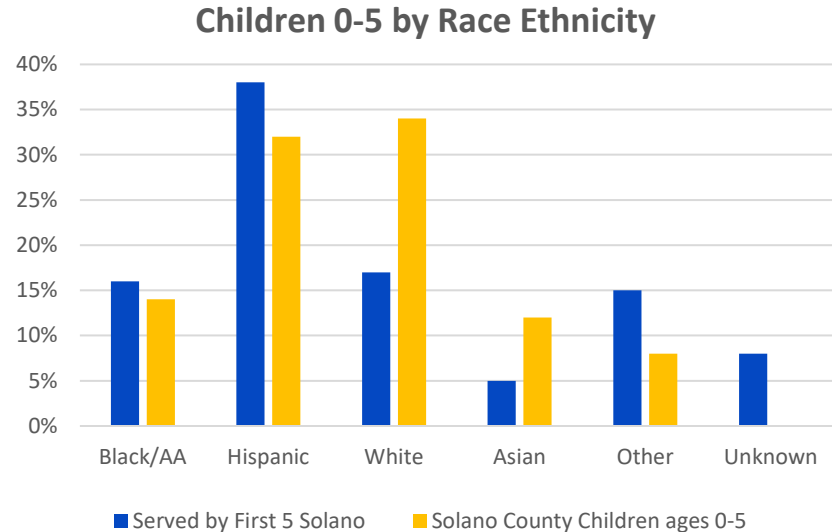
How Well Did We Do It?



Is Anyone Better Off?

Demographics

- **13,753** residents received services (a 6% increase from last fiscal year)
 - **7,185** Children 0-5
 - **6,293** Parents/Caregivers & other family members
 - **275** Providers
- When compared to Solano overall – the majority of children 0-5 who received services identified as Hispanic





- A total of 1,270 parents attended a Triple P service

TRIPLE P SOLANO

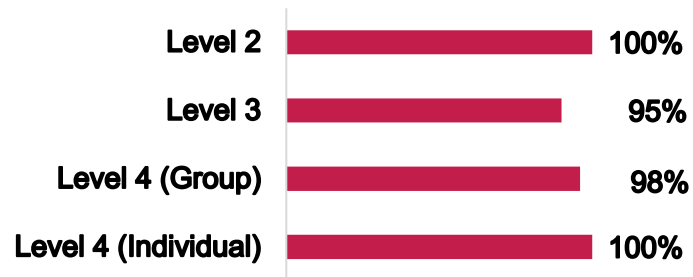


- 22 new facilitators were trained across multiple levels of interventions and accredited by Triple P America
- Recognition of Positive Parenting Awareness Month in January 2023 by California State Assembly, Solano County Board of Supervisors, and First 5 Solano Commission
- 99% of Level 4 participants rated the program overall as “excellent” or “good”

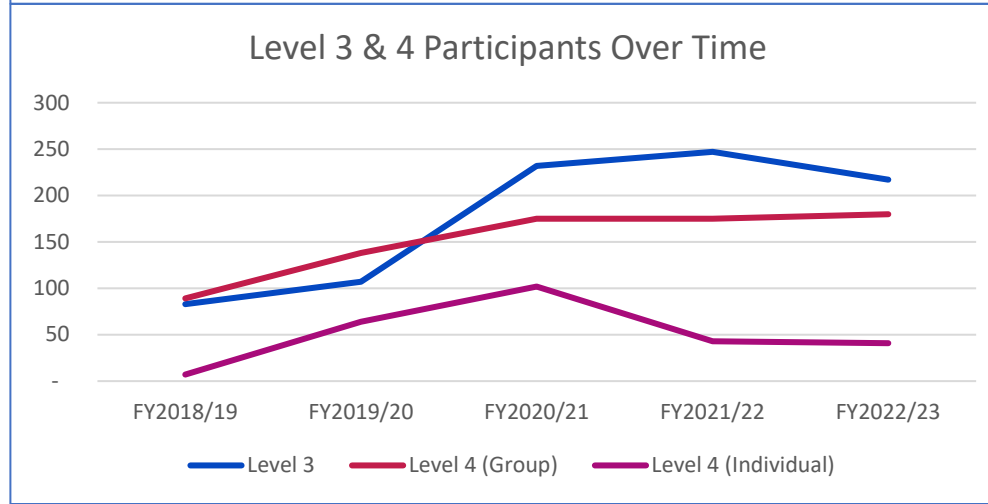
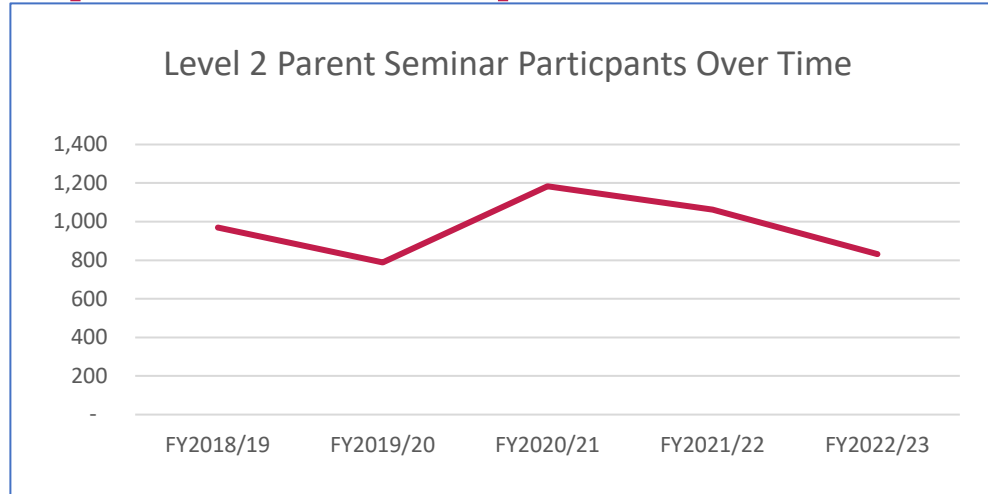


Pre and post-participant survey showed that nearly all parents improved in their parenting knowledge and skills

Percent of Parents with Improved Skills



Triple P Participants Over Time



QUALITY EARLY LEARNING



- **IMPACT/Quality Counts:** 44 early learning sites participated
- **Raising a Reader:** 1,331 children participated



- **IMPACT/Quality Counts:**

- Quality Counts Early Education Conference was offered in-person this year
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants provided classroom strategies that support all children



- **Raising a Reader:**

- Implementers reported that the program has provided them with opportunities to connect with families

- **IMPACT/Quality Counts:**

- 100% of sites developed quality improvement plans and all made at least one change to enhance the quality of their program

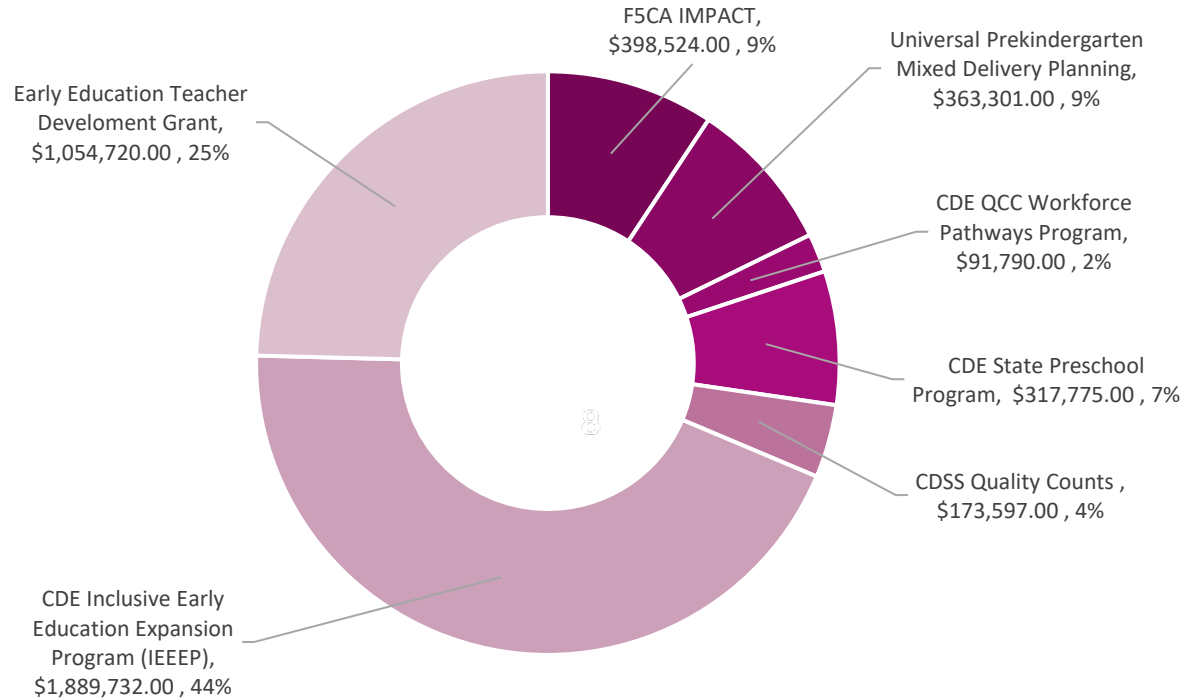


- **Raising a Reader:**

- 91% of staff reported that children were excited about receiving the red books.

Quality Early Learning Blended Funding Model

FY2022/23 Budgeted = \$4,289,439



First 5 Solano partners with the Solano County Office of Education who delivers the program utilizing a blended funding model.



- First 5 Solano ramped down pre-k academy work this year, as universal pre-kindergarten (a.k.a. Transitional Kindergarten) is now becoming available through the public-school system
- 14 pre-k academies were offered over the summer, providing classrooms that could accommodate 24 children for 4-week sessions

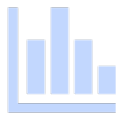
PRE-K ACADEMIES



- Data consistently shows significant increases in children's abilities over the 4-week program
- Pre-k academies are shown to fill a gap in learning prior to kindergarten entry



- Pre/post survey showed that students were ready-to-go or nearly ready-to-go to kindergarten at the end of the academy
- Parents benefited from various family engagement activities offered by the academies



- 2,186 calls from families were assisted through the HMG call line, and 4,319 referrals to services were provided to families
- 617 developmental screenings were administered either electronically or in person

HELP ME GROW SOLANO

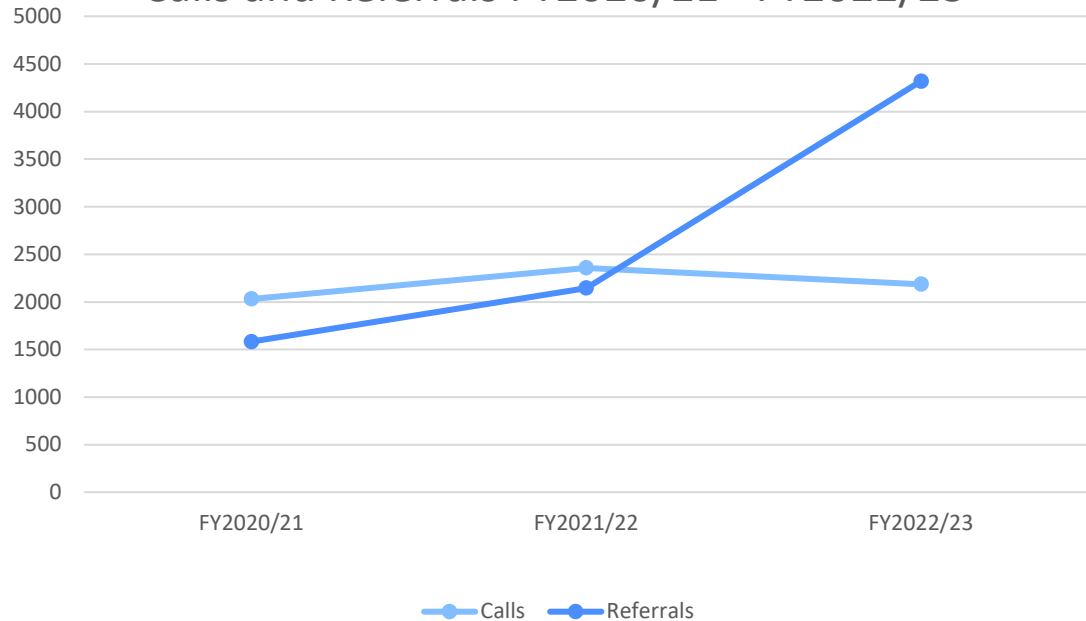


- 90% of callers were provided at least one referral to a program or service
- Of the 617 developmental screenings, 251 resulted in a high-risk referral for significant concerns



- 90% of screenings that identified a significant concern/high risk were referred to an appropriate community agency for additional support

Help Me Grow Solano Calls and Referrals FY2020/21 - FY2022/23



Help Me Grow Solano has been in operation since 2014.

Over the years, the number of calls has remained stable.

In FY2022/23, HMG Solano experienced an increase in number of referrals provided.

VALLEJO FIRST 5 CENTER



- 1,770 individuals, consisting of 906 children & 864 parents/caregivers participated in at least one class, activity or event.
 - 389 parents and caregivers received a consultation and were connected resources & provided with follow-up
-



- Class sizes increased as COVID restrictions lessened
 - 99% of parents seen by the Community Resource Specialist had their needs met
-



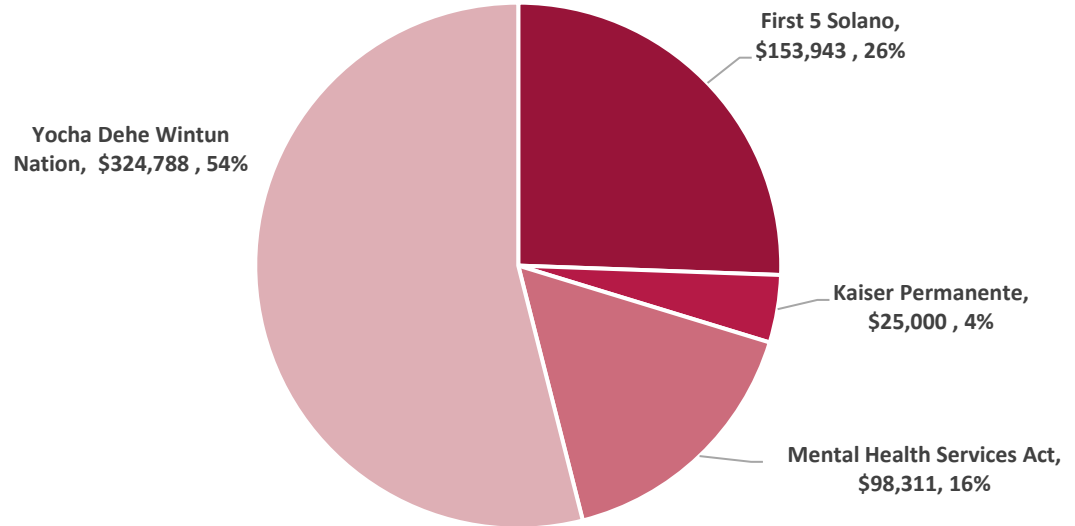
- 100% of families who completed a class series and completed a post series survey demonstrated increased knowledge and awareness of healthy behaviors and activities



Utilizing a Blended Funding Model

First 5 Solano Commissioners and staff have prioritized creating a blending funding model for the Center and made it a reality.

Vallejo First 5 Center Blended Funding Model
FY2022/23 Total Spent: \$602,042





- Engaged 7 new early care providers and organizations.
- Provided services to 898 children, 492 parents/caregivers, and 61 providers

ANNUAL GRANTS

- 49 providers received reflective practices training to address staff needs.
- Over 200 parents/caregivers received parent education classes and respite childcare sessions to address self-care needs.
- Over 250 children ages 0-5 received Storytime and multicultural books to read at home.
- 10 parents/caregivers of children 0-5 participated in Parenting After Trauma Program.
- Over 120 children ages 2-4 to increased physical activity and socialization skills through recreational programming.
- Over 200 parents/caregivers participated in parent engagement workshops and the Transitional Kindergarten/Kindergarten (TK/K) enrollment fair.



- *Loving Care for Kids Traveling Literacy Program* allowed providers to elevate their knowledge about multiculturalism in their programs
- *City of Suisun* demonstrated success in providing recreational programming to younger children. Staff now has data to advocate for continued programming with the city.

Other First 5 Solano Initiatives



Early Childhood Mental Health Treatment

- ✓ 150 children received EPSDT mental health services
- ✓ 96% of 128 children in on-going treatment evaluated for their 6-month review demonstrated improvement in at least one stated treatment goal

Family Support – Rio Vista CARE

- ✓ 50 families were provided case management with over 83% showing improvement in multiple domains of the Family Development Matrix and the Protective Factors Survey
- ✓ 90% of families receiving basic needs/homeless resources remained in stable housing
- ✓ 20 children participated in pre-school readiness activities with 100% of the children demonstrating increased school readiness





Questions?



EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS CHANGE IN SOLANO COUNTY

FY2022/23

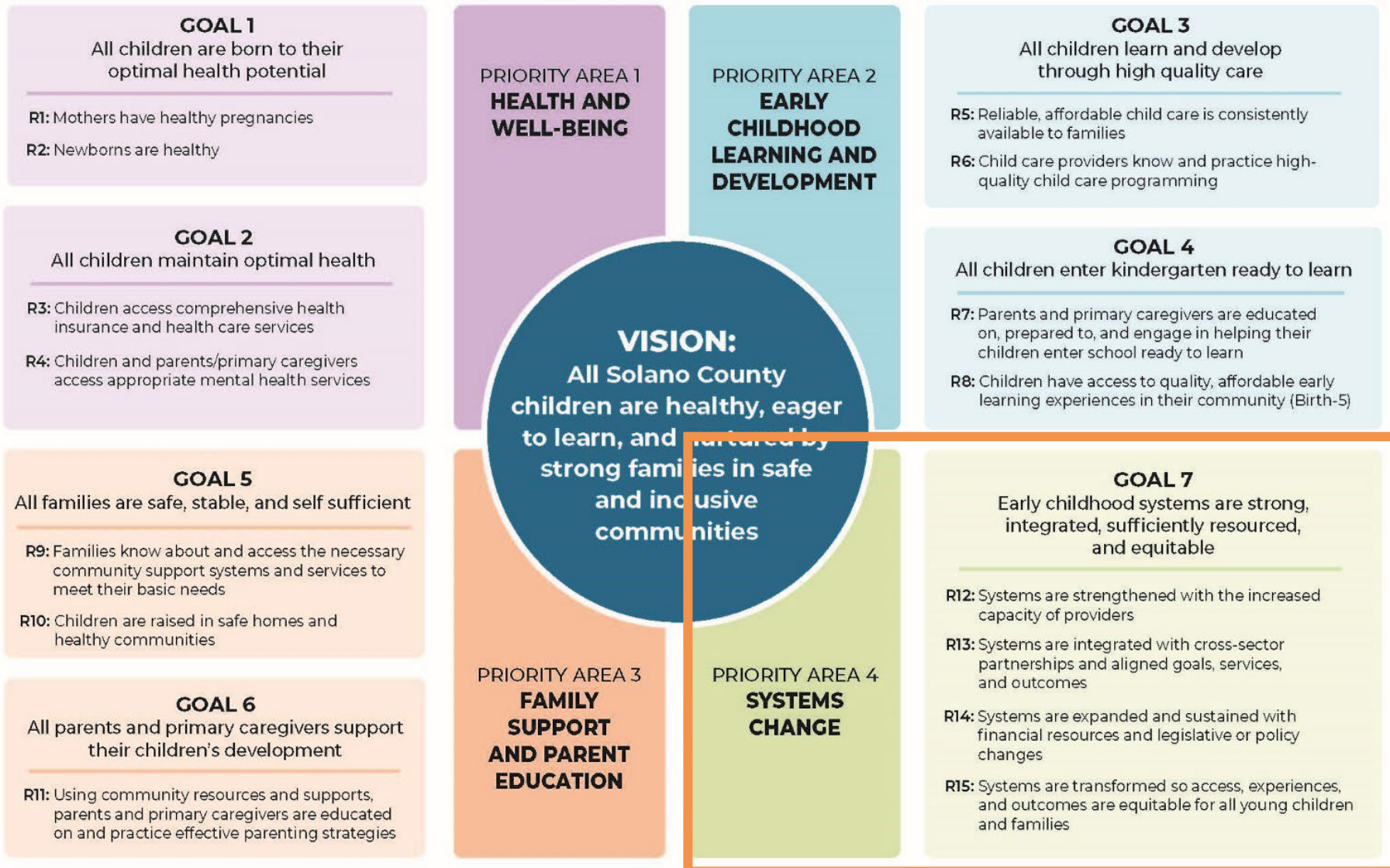


October 18, 2023



FIRST 5 SOLANO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

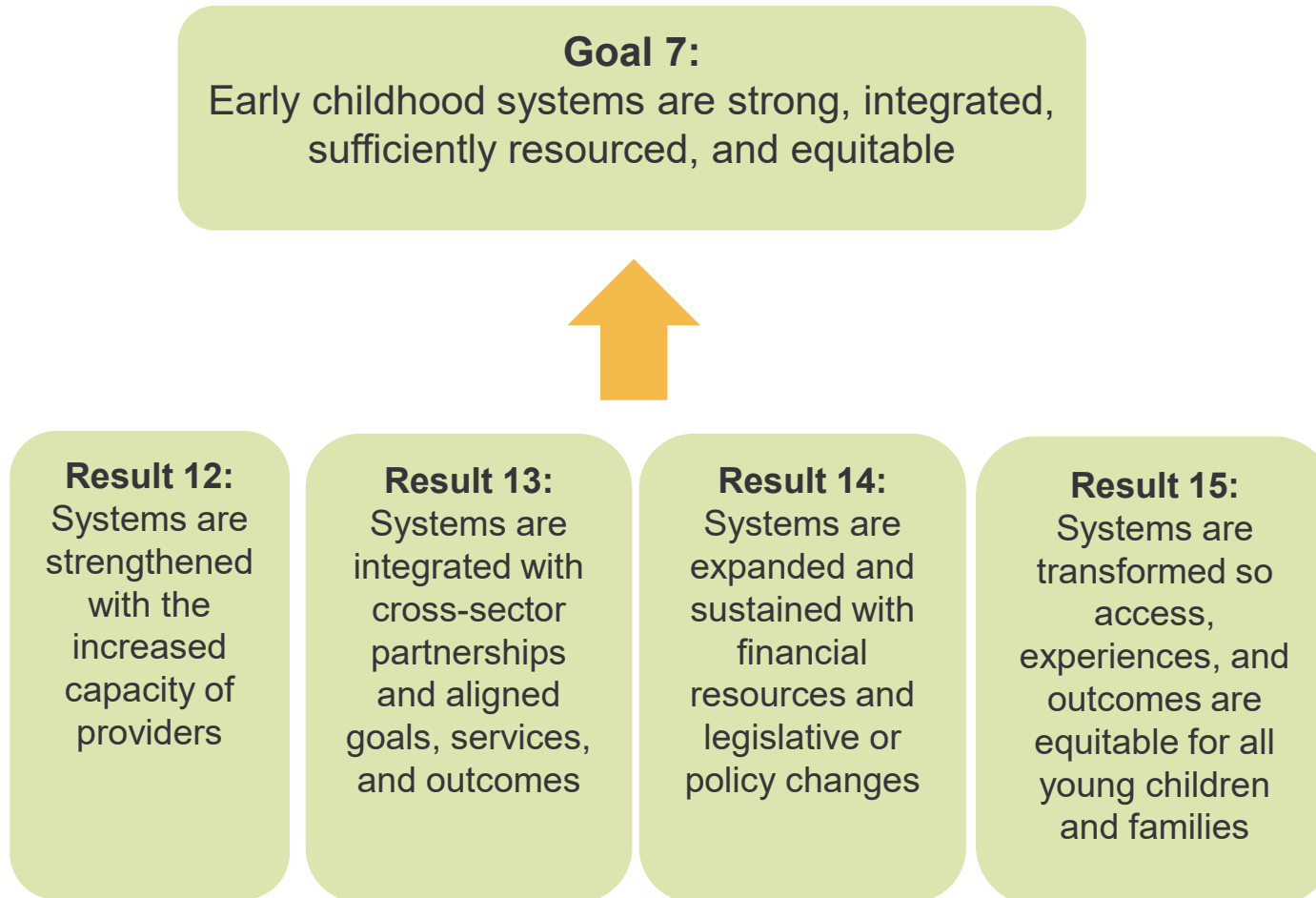
MISSION: First 5 Solano is a catalyst that strategically advances innovative, prevention-focused approaches across systems that improve the lives of young children and their families.



VALUES: EQUITY - ACCESSIBILITY - SUSTAINABILITY - ADVOCACY - COLLABORATION - RESPECT



Systems Change Goal and Results



Systems are STRENGTHENED



- **\$160,000** in Annual Grants were given
- **120** participants attended annual ECE conference
- **22** providers trained in the evidence-based Triple P Program
- **44** early learning and care providers participated in Quality Counts
- **24** local leaders attended Results Based Accountability event

Systems are INTEGRATED



- 20 childcare providers used First 5-sponsored business management system
- Vallejo Early Learning Center (ELC) to offer comprehensive and coordinated services for families
 - Childcare and early learning opportunities for nearly 300 young children
 - On-site Family Resource Center
 - Childcare coaches for providers: Head Start, Early Head Start, and private providers
- First 5 Center in Fairfield to open in 2025
- F5 Solano and F5 Contra Costa hosted a First 5 Center tour for Bay Area First 5's
- Continued leadership of and participation in collaboratives throughout county

Systems are EXPANDED AND SUSTAINED



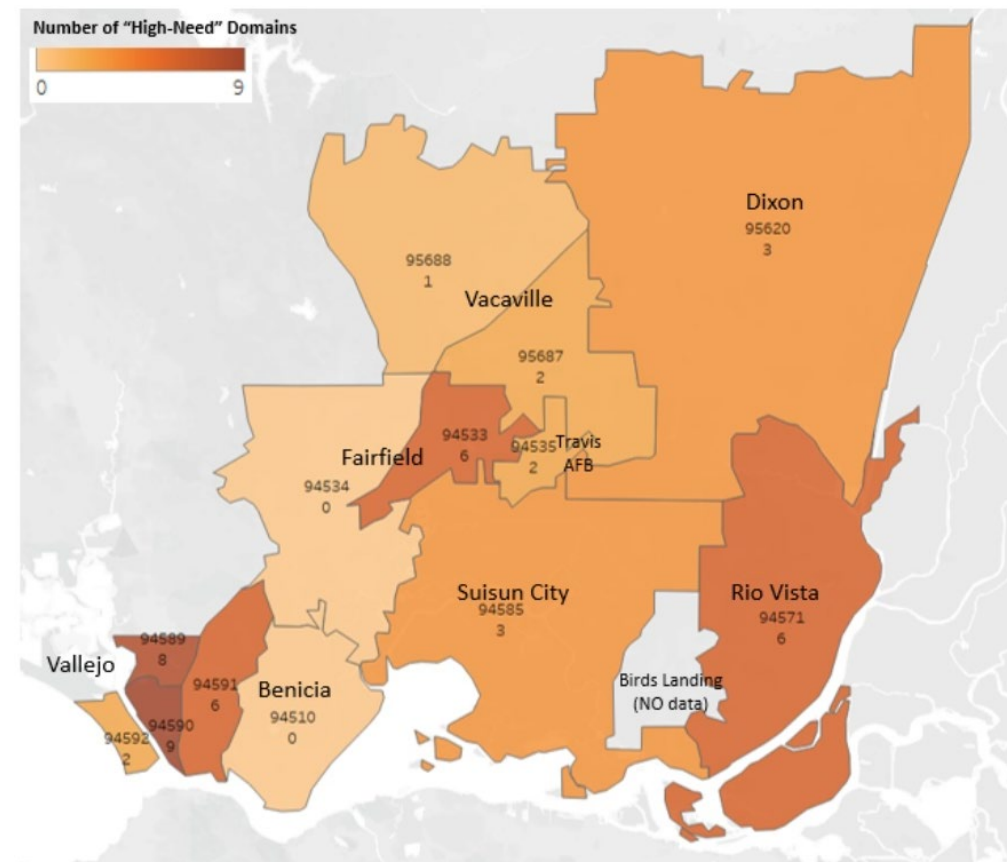
- **\$3.2m** in grants awarded in FY2022/23
- **\$14m** raised to-date for the Vallejo ELC
- Continued to build relationships with state and local policymakers and funders
 - Quarterly meetings with the funders
 - First 5 Association Virtual Advocacy Day
 - Legislative visits that included tours of First 5 Center



Systems are TRANSFORMED



- Invested in areas of county in greatest need
- Conducted an equity audit; plan to create an equity implementation plan in FY2023/24
- Participated in First 5 Network Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion session



Thank you!

Date: October 11, 2023
TO: First 5 Solano Commission
FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director
SUBJ: **Early Learning Center Update**

Agenda Item IV: Early Learning Center Update

Motion A: Consider obligating up to \$1,720,000 from the Commission’s Reserve to guarantee necessary funds pending the results of outstanding funding requests to fill the remaining gap on Phase I of the Early Learning Center as the payor of last resort (source of funds: Commission Reserve)

The ELC Team, First 5 Solano; Terra Realty Advisors (First 5 Solano’s real estate advisor and negotiator); Child Start; Solano County Office of Education; and the Vallejo City Unified School District) have been navigating a path toward completing the purchase of the school and deeding it to Child Start, who is the local Head Start provider and the ultimate owner/operator of the building.

This ELC project involves the repurposing of a surplus elementary school site, Beverly Hills Elementary, into an early learning campus in Vallejo, with social services programs offered at a new Community Resource Building on the back third of the campus.

Project Description

This ELC project involves the renovation and acquisition of a shuttered elementary school site in southeast Vallejo for the purpose of establishing an ELC. The facility is in one of the most historically under-resourced neighborhoods in Solano County. In 2021, before the school closed, 91% of the children were eligible for the free and reduced lunch program. The ELC will provide a variety of early care and education opportunities for infants through preschoolers and families of all income levels, with a total capacity of up to 300 slots.

In June 2023, the First 5 Solano Commission received permission from the County Board of Supervisors to purchase the facility. First 5 Solano is currently in the “due diligence” phase of the purchase process, which ends Oct 18, 2023.

Prior to the age of five, 90% of a child’s brain development occurs. A child’s early experiences can dramatically shape brain development into adulthood. Positive early learning experiences are essential for children to have later success in school, the workplace and the community. A primary barrier to expanding childcare in Solano County is the lack of physical locations to provide early childhood education and childcare services. Providers struggle to find suitable buildings with classrooms equipped to serve young children (e.g., small bathrooms, outdoor play space). Due to the lack of facilities and other challenges, many children are left out of a quality childcare experience, and less than half of 3-4 year olds had a preschool experience.

This innovative and scalable approach to meeting a critical community need will be the first of its kind in California and will serve as a model for other communities where lack of childcare facilities is a barrier to early childhood learning expansion, and where there are surplus school sites. Investment in this project has the potential to impact outcomes for the most under-resourced families for at least 2 decades, laying a strong foundation for positive outcomes in their lives and for the greater community as a whole.

The Site

The facility will provide a variety of early care and education opportunities for infants through preschoolers and families of all income levels, for a total capacity of up to 300 slots. In addition, the project is providing opportunities for Family Based Child Care homes to move from a home-based facility to a larger Center-Based facility located within the Early Learning Center.

The site is currently in the “due diligence” phase of the purchase, ensuring that there are no facility issues that need addressing prior to purchase. This phase ends October 18, 2023 at which time the building purchase moves into escrow and staff complete the purchase. Once the purchase is completed, First 5 Solano and Child Start will negotiate an agreement to transfer the property ownership from Solano County to Child Start, as well as transfer the funds needed to renovate the facility.

The Funding

On another front, staff have been working on raising funds to cover the renovations. The project budget is estimated as follows:

Project Budget (in priority order)		Amount
Facility Purchase		2,800,000
Renovation		13,000,000
New Community Resource Building		4,000,000
Mindfulness Track		1,000,000
Portable Replacement		4,000,000
Total Project Budget		24,800,000

To date, staff have commitments for \$14M, so we are inching closer toward our goal every day! The committed funding is as follows:

Committed Funding	Amount
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission	1,870,000
American Rescue Plan Act – Solano County	1,870,000
Child Start, Inc.	1,500,000
City of Vallejo	610,000
Solano County Office of Education	30,000
State of California - Dodd Earmark - Roof	5,000,000
Solano County - Purchase	2,000,000
Irwin Foundation - Furniture	200,000
State of California - Dodd Earmark - Renovation	1,000,000
Total Funding	14,080,000

In addition, staff and our partners have also submitted 6 requests for funding totaling \$14M – these requests are currently being considered.

As you can see from the funding tables above, the ELC Team does not yet have the \$15.8M necessary to complete Phase I of the ELC Project, but has a \$1,720,000 gap in funding. This staff report brings forward a motion for the Commission to guarantee the funding from its Reserve, in the event that the \$14M pending funding requests do not materialize and First 5 Solano must utilize its reserve to complete Phase I of the project. (See Attachment B – Fund Development)

The next phase of fund development focuses upon securing the costs associated with the new Community Resources Building (CRB). The size and scope of the new CRB will be wholly dependent upon the amount of funding secured during these next several months. Should commissioners have any leads that could result in funds for the CRB, please reach out to the Executive Director, Michele Harris.

The Design

The ELC Team has been actively working on the design and renovations of the ELC (school proper). These designs were recently completed with the architect, so designing has now transitioned to the new CRB. Staff are designing for the ideal CRB. Once funding is secured and the Team is at the point of deciding on the 2nd phase of this work (CRB) consideration for the amount of funding secured will help to determine the ultimate size of the CRB and which agencies will occupy it.

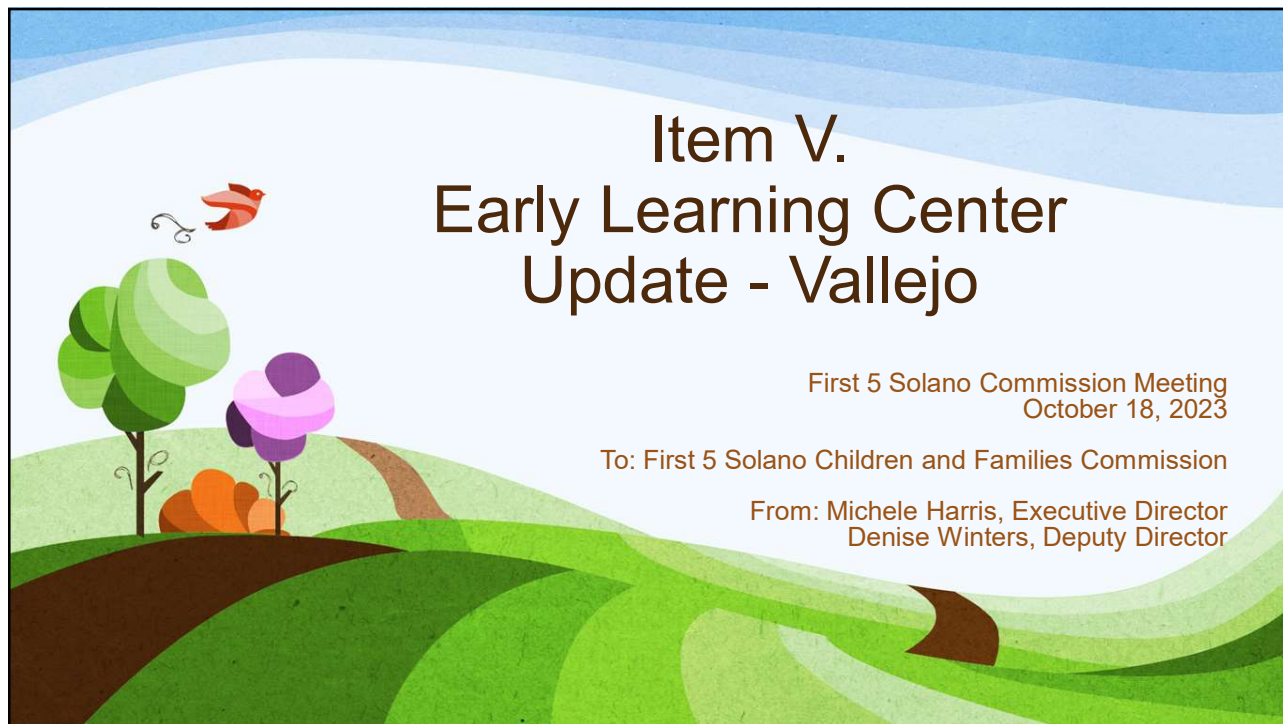
Staff and the entire ELC Team will continue down these paths of fundraising and site design, bringing forward appropriate decisions to the Commission when they are ready.

Timeline & Next Steps

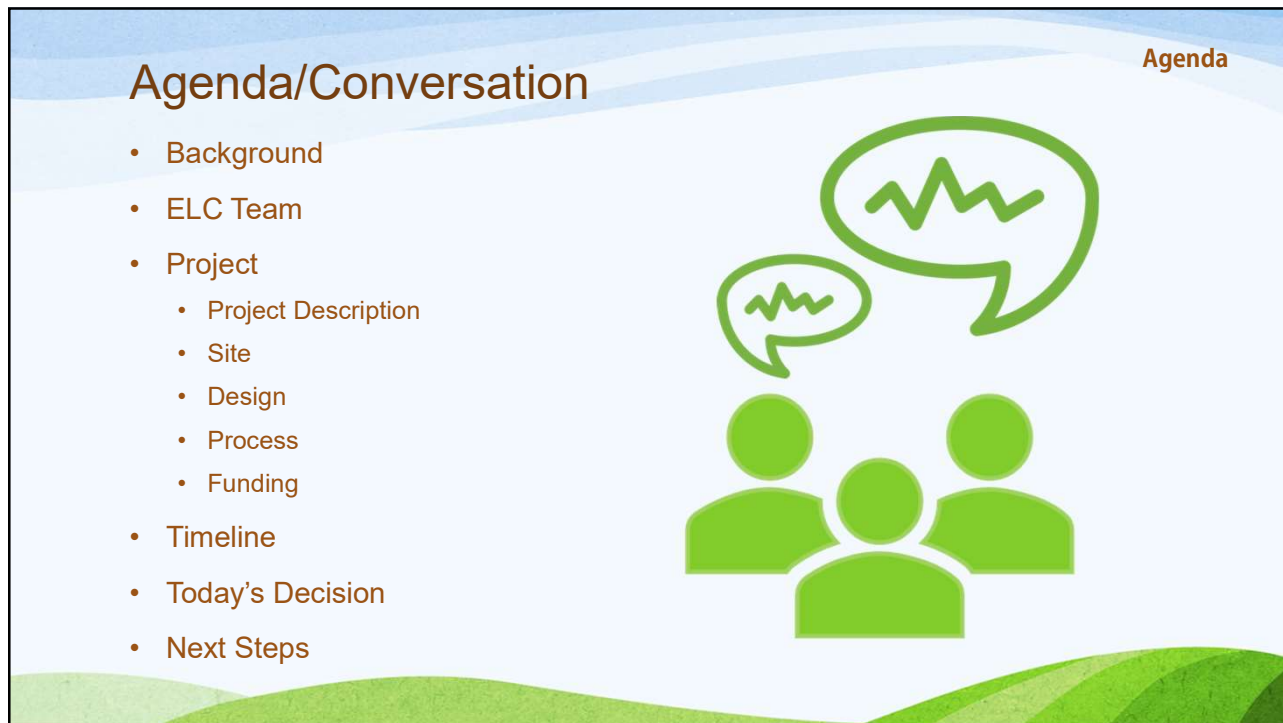
Over the next 3 months, staff intends to purchase the Beverly Hills Elementary School and transfer its ownership from First 5 Solano/Solano County to Child Start, Inc. This will then allow Child Start to begin to contract independently with Terra Realty Advisors, the General Contractor and the Architectural Firm to launch project construction. There are many more steps in between, but the end goal is to open Summer 2026.

[Attachment A](#): ELC PowerPoint Presentation

[Attachment B](#): Funding Summary



1



2

Background

Origin Story

- 2 Head Start Classrooms located at Vallejo H&SS Campus on Virginia Street
- Child Start Inc., tried to identify alternative location for over 8 years
- CAO staff requested First 5 Solano help Child Start try to relocate
- First 5 Solano contacted real estate brokers, city, school district

IN ADDITION

- A 2018 First 5 Solano study revealed #1 barrier to childcare and early learning expansion was a *“lack of appropriate facilities”*

3

Background

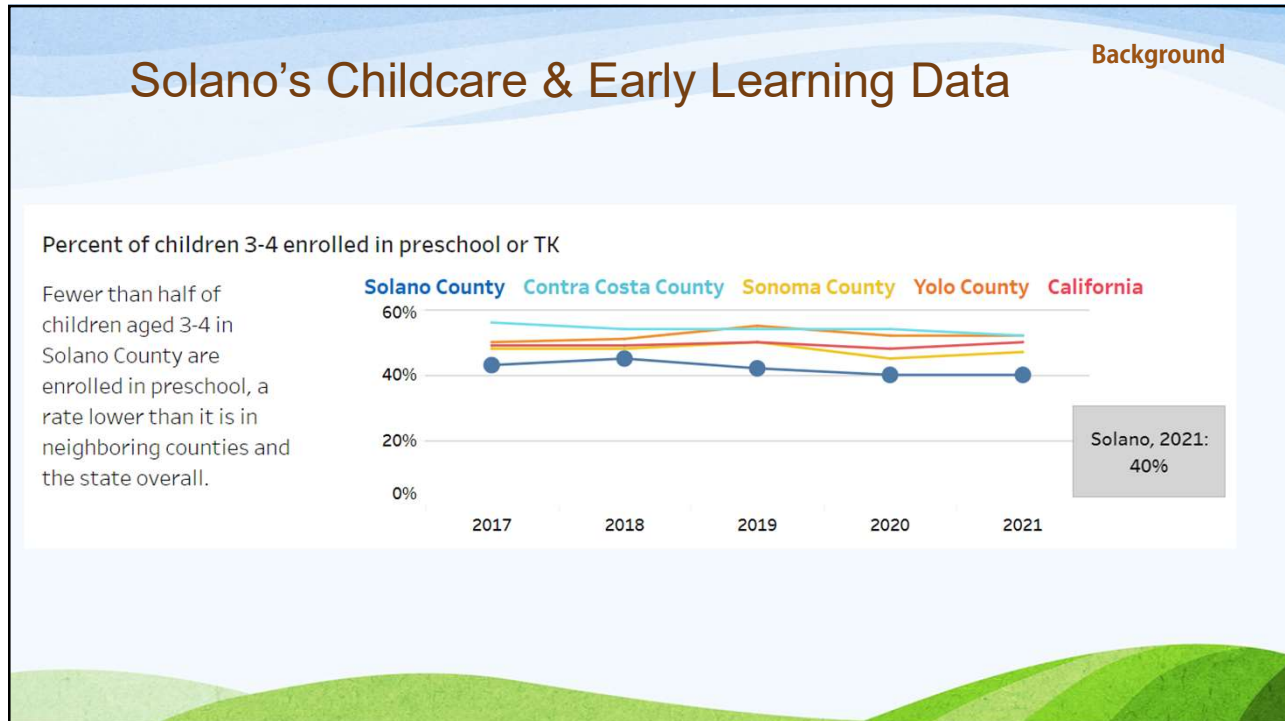
Solano’s Childcare & Early Learning Data

Percent of children 0-12 with working parents for whom there is available licensed care

The availability of child care for working parents is still lower in Solano County than in comparison counties and the state overall.

Year	Solano County	Contra Costa County	Sonoma County	Yolo County	California
2012	~22%	~32%	~25%	~25%	~25%
2014	~18%	~30%	~24%	~24%	~24%
2017	~21%	~28%	~24%	~24%	~24%
2019	~21%	~28%	~25%	~25%	~25%
2021	22%	~34%	~26%	~26%	~26%

4



5



6

Background

ORIGINAL: Beverly Hills Elementary School

- Opened in 1949, Closed in 2021
- 18 large classrooms (~ 900sf) & 4 Portables
- Playground/outdoor space, service kitchen, multipurpose room



7

Early Learning Center Team

ELC Team



8

ELC Team

ELC Team

- Lead for ELC Project
- Partner coordination
- Raise funding for renovations
- Partner with Child Start to support them as the owner & operator of ELC



- Owner/Operator of ELC
- Operates 4 classrooms
- leases remainder of school to other childcare & early learning providers



9

ELC Team

ELC Team

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



- Contracted with First 5 Solano to complete purchase of facility
- Works for Child Start as the project management firm for ELC project
- Secures other contractors, such as the Architectural Firm and the General Contractor



- First 5 Solano purchasing facility from VCUSD



10

Project Description

ELC Project

- Purchase old school in Vallejo, centered in a historically under-resourced neighborhood
- 18-Classroom Facility - Operated by Child Start
- Up to 300 Early Learning Slots for Children 0-5
- Child Start aggregates facility costs (water, electric, janitorial, admin staff, landscaping, facility maintenance) and divides costs across the classrooms on a pro-rated basis – this serves as “rent” – no ongoing cost
- Classrooms “rented” (2-4 at a time) by existing providers looking to expand locations or family childcare homes looking to grow into a center
- Providers are assigned classrooms and can use facility common areas during set schedule rotation
- Leadership team comes together to address issues, review data and evaluate future direction

11

Project Description

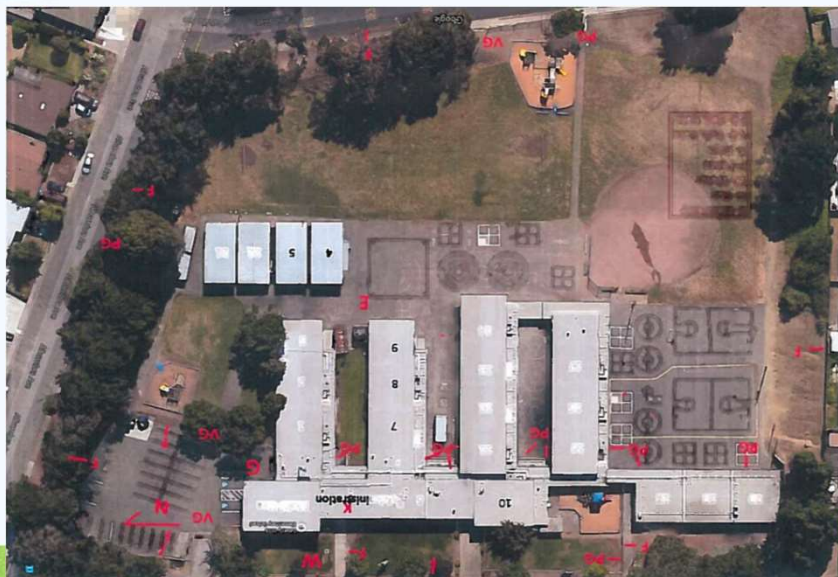
The Facility

1450 Coronel Avenue,
Vallejo

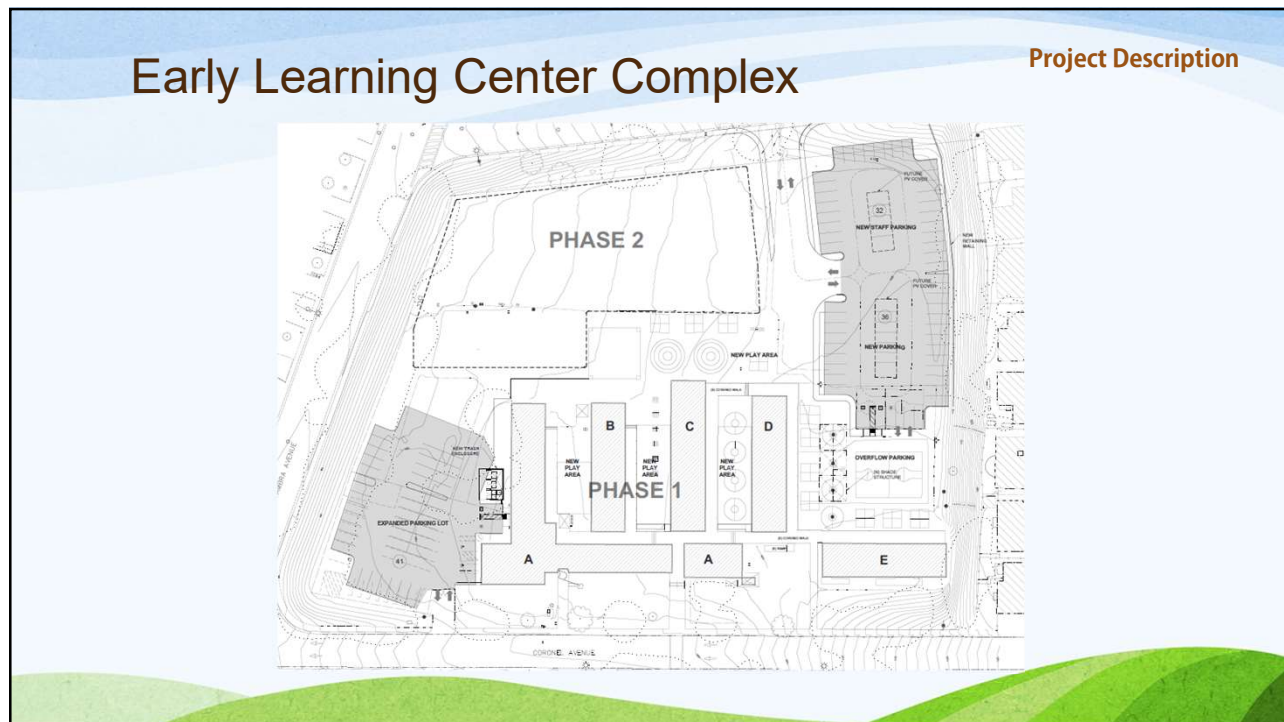
Former Beverly Hills
Elementary School

First 5 purchases for
\$2,800,000

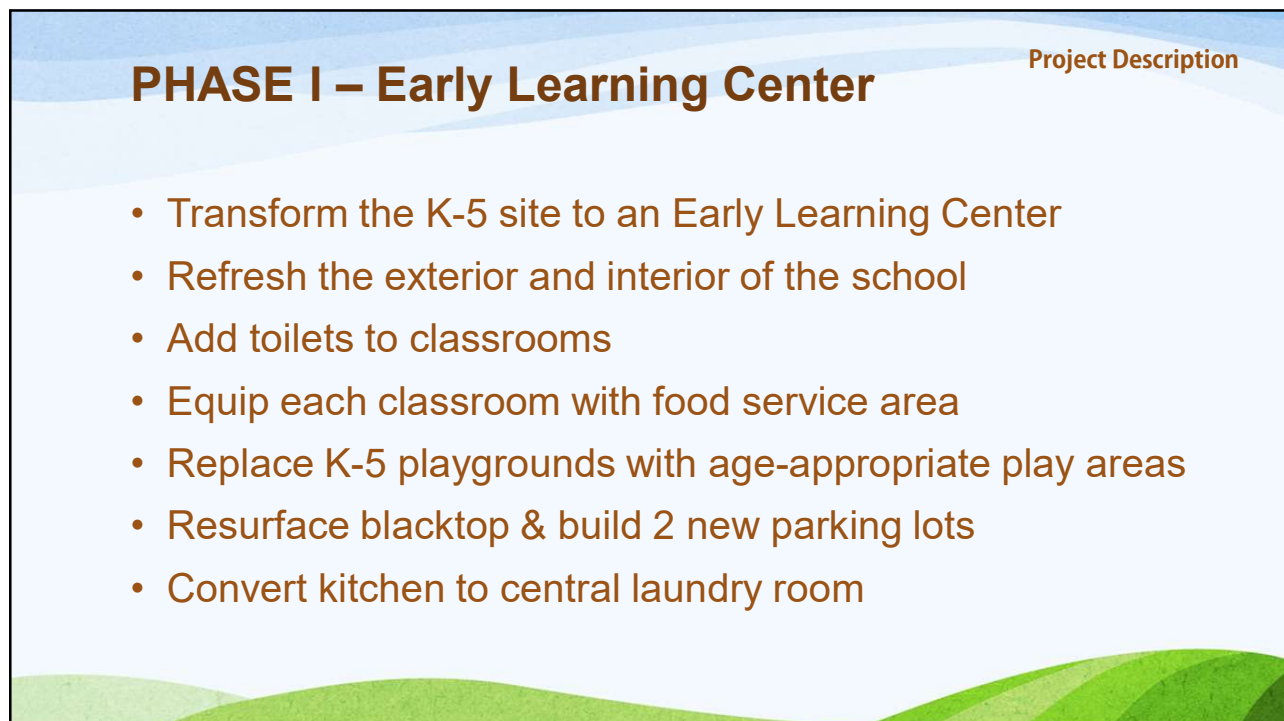
First 5 transfers
ownership to Child
Start to renovate &
operate as an Early
Learning Center



12



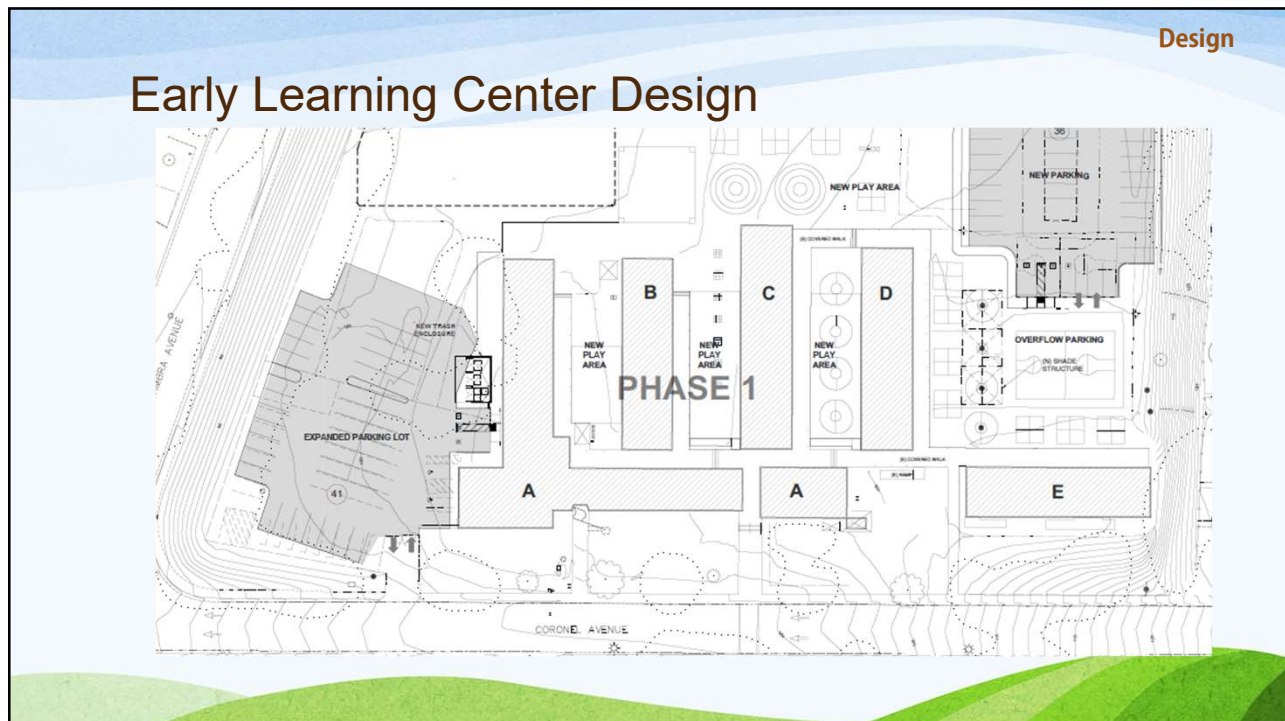
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16

PHASE II – Community Resource Building

Construct a new Community Resource Building (CRB) on the back side of the campus – 6,000sf

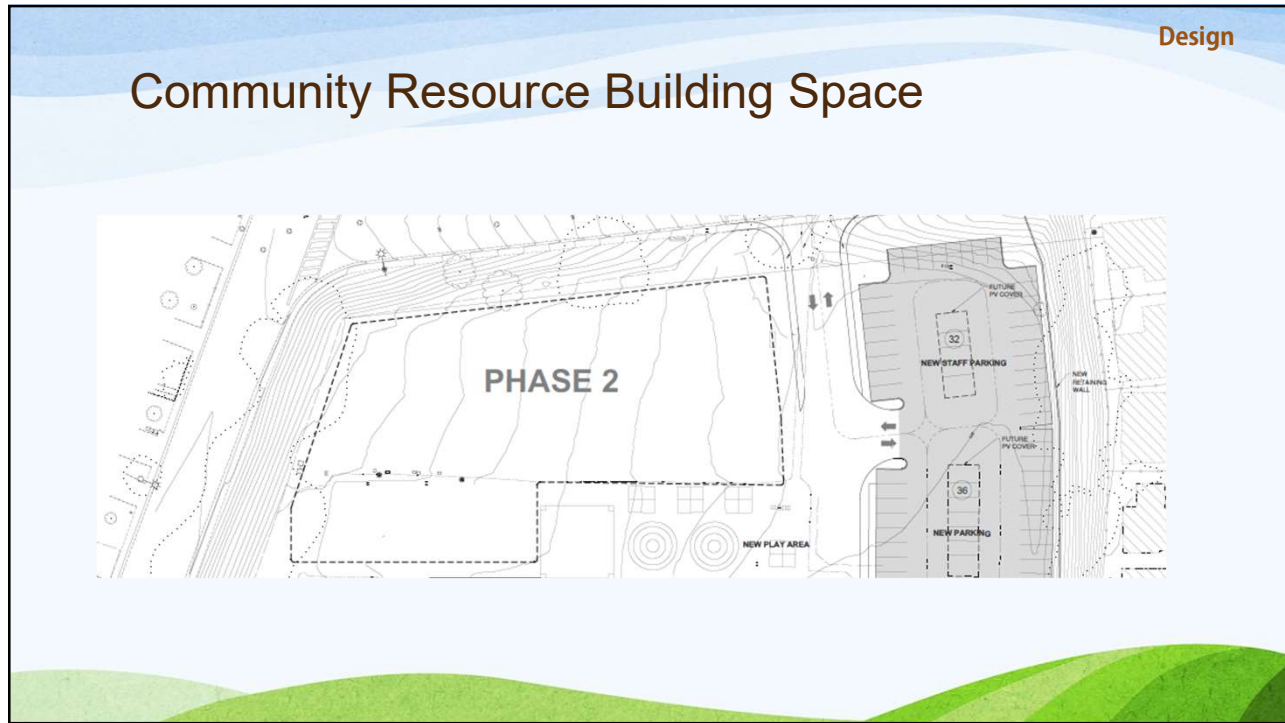
- Whole Child/Whole Family Approach
- Family Resource Center – family supports, including basic needs and much more
- Solano County
 - *Public Health* - Vaccines, immunizations, navigation for a medical home, make/keep healthcare appointments
 - *Behavioral Health* - Developmental milestone screenings, mental health services
 - *Child Welfare* - Parent education classes, multi-disciplinary teams
- Food Pantry – designed as a Bodega
- Shared conference room, lobby, restrooms, breastfeeding room
- Library - if enough \$\$\$ resources to make the building 10,000sf

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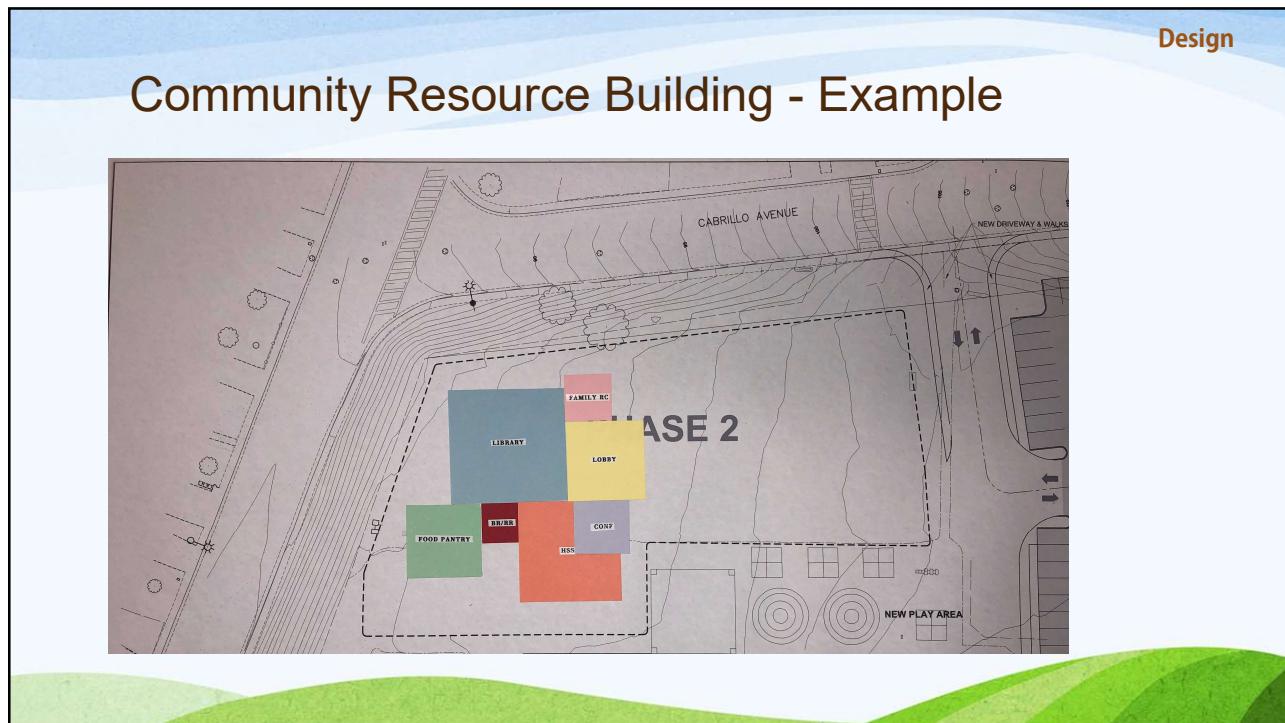
Phase II - Community Resource Building



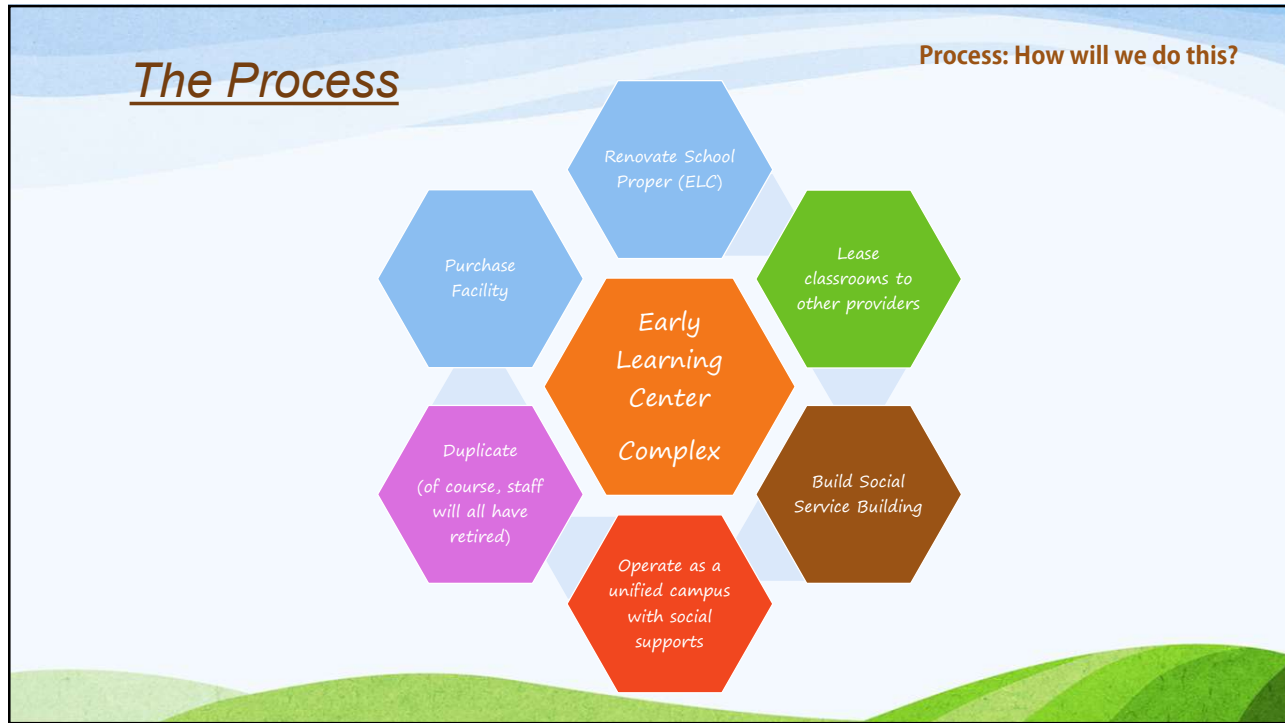
18



19



20



21

Project Budget in Priority Order

Funding

Project Budget	
Facility Purchase	\$2,800,000
Renovation of School Facility	13,000,000
Community Resource Building 6,000sf	4,000,000
Mindfulness Track	1,000,000
Community Resource Building 10,000sf	4,000,000
Total Project Budget	\$24,800,000

**Priorities implemented based upon availability of funding*

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Financial Commitments

Funding

Committed Funding	
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission	\$1,870,000
American Rescue Plan Act – Solano County	1,870,000
Child Start, Inc.	1,500,000
City of Vallejo	610,000
Solano County Office of Education	30,000
State of California - Dodd Earmark - Roof	5,000,000
Solano County - Purchase	2,000,000
Irwin Foundation - Furniture	200,000
State of California - Dodd Earmark - Renovation	1,000,000
Total Committed	\$14,080,000

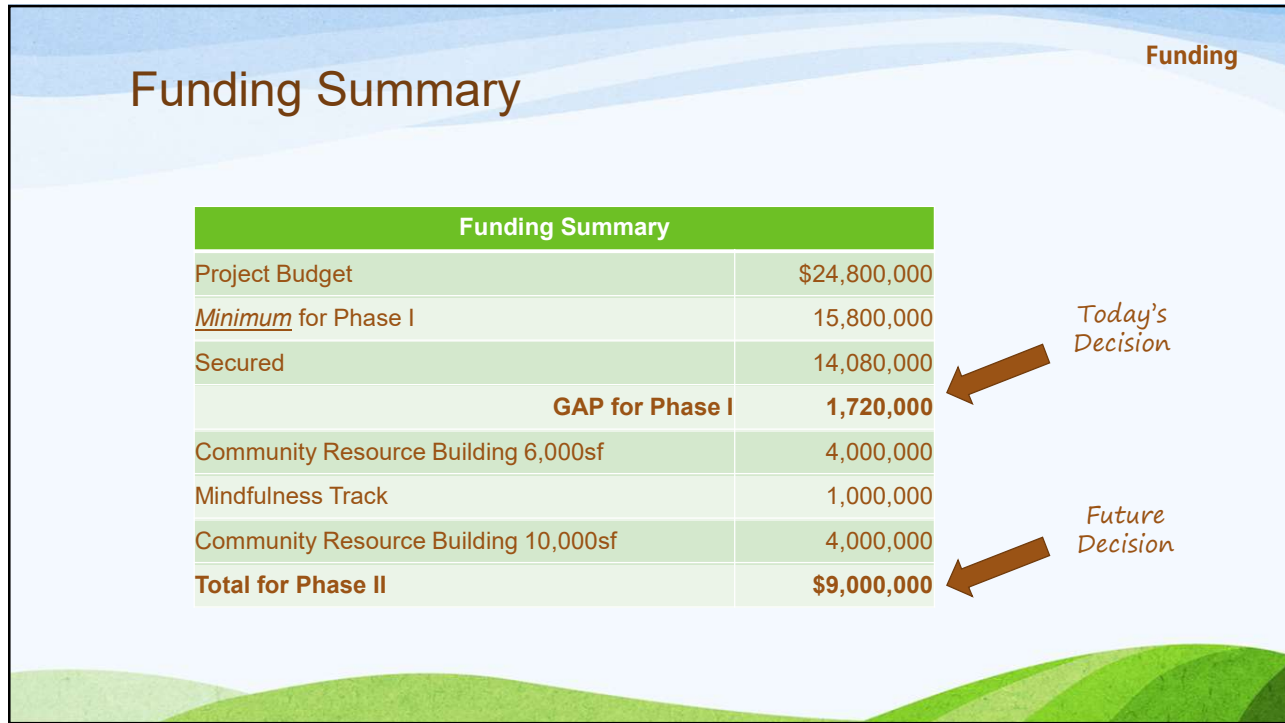
23

Requested Funding - *not yet* Committed

Funding

Requests for Funds	
CDSS Major Construction Grant	1,500,000
CDSS Major Construction Grant	1,500,000
Syar Foundation	1,000,000
State Public Health Dept	3,000,000
Federal Earmark-Garamendi	3,000,000
Kaiser Permanente	4,000,000
Total Requested - <i>not yet</i> Committed	\$14,000,000

24



25




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Upcoming Decisions

Today's Decision

Today – Does First 5 Solano back the entire Phase I ELC \$15,800,000 budget?

- Factors to consider
 - Raised \$14,080,000
 - Current gap of \$1,720,000
 - Requests of \$14,000,000 still pending
 - We know \$4,000,000 will not come this year
 - Additional \$7,000,000 is specifically for Phase II
 - If not secured, \$1,720,000 will need to be filled by Commission Reserve
 - Commission Uncommitted Reserve Balance is currently \$6,612,000



Future – What size Community Resource Building to move forward in Phase II: unknown timeline for this decision

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Next Steps

Next Steps

Commission - Allocation of funding to Child Start today

- Staff – Complete Phase I Next Steps
 - Finalize facility purchase
 - Finalize Funding Agreement with Child Start
 - Transfer property to Child Start
- Child Start
 - Contract with Terra Realty Advisors to manage project
 - Hire General Contractor
 - Hire Architect
 - Begin implementation of Phase I construction and management activities to build both the facility and the infrastructure needed for a brand-new program



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Motion

Consider obligating up to \$1,720,000 from the Commission's Reserve to guarantee necessary funds pending the results of outstanding funding requests to fill the remaining gap on Phase I of the Early Learning Center as the payor of last resort

(source of funds: Commission Reserve)

PROJECT BUDGET

Project Budget (in priority order)	Amount
Facility Purchase	2,800,000
Renovation	13,000,000
6,000sf Community Resource Building	4,000,000
10,000sf Community Resource Building	4,000,000
Mindfulness Track	1,000,000
Total Project Budget	24,800,000

FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Committed Funding	Amount
First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission	1,870,000
American Rescue Plan Act – Solano County	1,870,000
Child Start, Inc.	1,500,000
City of Vallejo	610,000
Solano County Office of Education	30,000
State of California - Dodd Earmark - Roof	5,000,000
Solano County - Purchase	2,000,000
Irwin Foundation - Furniture	200,000
State of California - Dodd Earmark - Renovation	1,000,000
Total Funding	14,080,000
Fundraising Gap	10,720,000

DATE: October 11, 2023

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJ: **Executive Director's Report for October 18, 2023**

Syar Summit – Nonprofit Capacity Building & Funder Symposium: The Syar Summit (which is also a nonprofit capacity building and funder symposium (symposium)) will be held on November 9th, 2023. The symposium has 2 tracks:

1. The nonprofit capacity building track is for Solano nonprofits to come together to learn from statewide and national leaders about the critical infrastructure you need to be a successful nonprofit
2. The funder track is for funders willing to consider investing in Solano, but unsure of the place to start and/or the efficacy of local nonprofits.

The symposium will start with a keynote speaker to set the stage for moving into the individual tracks. Lunch is a networking opportunity which will be continued during the final keynote to summarize what was learned throughout the day and where do we go from here. The Funders Symposium has a robust lineup of featured leaders who will be presenting at the summit. First 5 Solano staff, along with Supervisor Erin Hannigan will be attending the Syar Summit and engaging with funders and community leaders, seeking ways to collaborate to support nonprofits serving underserved communities. The Early Learning Center in Vallejo and Community Resource Building will be a featured project for funders to consider.

First 5 Association Sustainability Collaborative

The First 5 Association is working on draft language to ask for a \$100 million one-time ask from the state to address impacts being felt by First 5 local county commissions by the flavor ban and the perpetually decreasing funding. I will bring forward more updates as the conversations evolve at the state level.

Sustaining Collaborative Impact Webinar: In September 2023, First 5 Solano staff participated in a webinar hosted by Leadership Academy for the Public's Health. The presentation, moderated by Carmen Rivera Nevarez, Co-Director for PHI Center for Health Leadership and Impact and Karen Smith, former California State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health, lead a discussion addressing how multi-sector collaboratives are transforming communities and how these collaboratives can become sustainable through integrated governance, administration, data management, and financing that includes a resilience fund accountable to the community.

ELC Funding Request through Solano County Public Health: As part of the funding efforts for the Early Learning Center, First 5 Solano submitted a funding proposal to Public Health initially for \$500,000.00. A follow-up to the initial correspondence was received in early August, requesting additional information about the Community Resource Building (CRB). First 5 Solano was asked to provide a Health Hub plan, identifying the CRB as a potential site for immediate response to natural disasters and health

emergencies such as that of the Vallejo fairgrounds during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. First 5 Solano provided a robust multi-use Health Hub plan that included outreach, prevention, and intervention services. The CRB location was identified as an area of Solano County impacted by health disparities and geographically located in the southernmost region of the county, making access to health services challenging. In the request for additional information, First 5 Solano was invited to increase its initial funding proposal amount to the amount that would cover the full buildout of the Health and Social Service footprint. Upon examination, this cost was approximately \$3 million. With submission of the additional funding proposal, a staffing plan was also submitted for regular use by Health & Social Services, Behavioral Health, and Public Health.

ELC Funding Request to Genentech: First 5 Solano was invited to submit a grant application requesting funds to aid at the Early Learning Center in Vallejo. The Genentech grant application was submitted on September 29th in the amount of \$150,000, which requested the replacement of an outdoor play structure with an age-appropriate structure that meets state standards. Research shows that outdoor play helps with the development of fine and gross motor skills. Outdoor play also improves overall physical and emotional development for children as early as 3 to 9 months of age.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten Collaborative: Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) is a workgroup comprised of leaders in early learning from each sector of the mixed-delivery system with a task to provide the potential impacts of the expansion of UPK. The workgroup has been identified and the group is proportionately varied from day-care providers, pre-school centers, directors and leaders that enjoy the work of system change and understanding the complexity of the cause and effect of finding the balance of a large scale change such as adding a grade to the structure of PK – 12th Grade. The UPK team, led by Lisa Eckhoff of Solano County Office of Education, are gearing up to release a survey to individuals currently listed as an early learning professional serving children 0-5 in Solano County, or you are a licensed child care owner, operator, or provider as of August 13, 2023, whose center is located in the county of Solano. The survey will give individuals the ability to express their concerns and provide data that will be analyzed by the workgroup, organized in themes, to allow further investigation/research in 3 categories. The product summary report of findings will be used to develop the 2024/25 and 2025/26 Scope of Work for Solano County Office of Education and First 5 Solano.

FY2022/23 Annual Audit & Special Meeting Update

The FY2022/23 Audit has been in full swing since the middle of August. Eide Bailly, LLP is currently finishing the report, which they expect to be completed on or before October 26, 2023. A special meeting of the Commission has been requested so that the Commission may receive the audit. This must be reported to First 5 California on or before December 7th, 2023. The date of the Special Meeting is November 8 at 3pm, at the First 5 Solano Office, 3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA 94590.

Staffing Update: First 5 Solano was fully staffed as of October 2, 2023 and does not anticipate any vacancies. Toya Adams started with First 5 Solano on July 17, 2023 as a Contract and Program Specialist, taking the lead in policy and legislation. Toya was able to spend two weeks with Lorraine Fernandez, who retired August 3, 2023, learning the many different attributes required for this position. Toya joins us from Health & Social Services and brings a wealth of knowledge on policies and procedures in the health field. In addition to her public health experience, Toya has also held several positions as a social worker/direct services provider with Older Disabled Adult Services, In-home Supportive services,

and family reunification and stabilization. Toya has the unique insight of lived experience as a former childcare provider, and the challenges of navigating systems as an advocate for underserved and underrepresented groups.

Alicia Gutierrez joined First 5 Solano team in October 2023 as a Health Education Specialist. She was previously a Health Education Specialist with Contra Costa County School-Based Health Clinics (SBHC), a program that provided health services, resources and outreach to support youth. Alicia served as a liaison between county resources and schools within Contra Costa to assist with community health needs. Prior to SBHC, Alicia worked as a Training Facilitator with the University of San Francisco, where she instructed a National CDC COVID-19 Virtual Training, developed skill-building content and materials. In addition, Alicia assisted the State of CA by leading and facilitating training programs such as School Specialist, Vaccine Communications, Cultural Humility, Outbreak Management and more. She also has experience providing educational services and support to children and families with disabilities.

Annual Review of Commission Policies

An annual review of the First 5 Solano Commission Policies was completed for FY2022/23. First 5 staff conducted a thorough review of the 'Services Restrictions by Age' policy and the Commission's 'Signature Authority' policy, specifically. Of the Commission's 15 distinct policies examined, there were no identified recommendations for revisions. The next review of the Commission's policies will be in September 2024.

Kindergarten Round Up: Periodically, First 5 Solano staff attend events in the Community to inform families of available services and programs funded by First 5 Solano as well as to promote the importance of development during the First 5 years of life. Staff routinely attend or participate in one community event per quarter. Kwiana Algere, Early Learning Manager attended the Kindergarten Round Up event at Solano County's Family Health Services building in August. This event was an opportunity for staff to connect with families and engage children while handing out materials such as tote bags, Social Emotional magnets, and information on the First 5 Center.

Maternal Child & Adolescent Health Letter of Support: First 5 Solano continues to partner with mission-aligned agencies in the charge for improving the lives of children ages 0-5 and their families. As the catalyst for sustainable change, First 5 Solano demonstrated its support of the County's Maternal Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH) Program by providing a letter of support. MCAH submitted a funding proposal to continue and expand its home visiting program, and the letter of support provided by First 5 Solano was part of its funding application during Round 3 of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative. Attachment A: Letter of Support for MCAH Grant Application

Solano HEALs Doula Program: In June 2023 the Commission approved an allocation of \$100,000 per year for 3 years, total \$300,000 for FY2023/24-FY2025/26 to Solano County Health and Social Services via Aliados Health for prenatal and early parenting activities for African American mothers. The team (First 5 Solano, Health and Social Services, and Aliados Health) partnered with Solano HEALs and Davon Crawford with A Divine Birthright, a certified full spectrum doula, to develop a doula training program to support African American mothers in Solano County. 14 African American women received training as doulas in the first cohort to provide services to expectant and postpartum mothers and newborns in Solano County. As part of the program, at least eight trained doulas will be trained to facilitate prenatal groups in Solano County. All 14 certified doulas demonstrated an interest in becoming trained to facilitate prenatal groups, and all 14 will be able to go through the training to become facilitators.



First 5 California Regional Technical Assistance for Home Visiting Coordination and Integration Update:

In October 2019, the First 5 California State Commission approved up to \$24 million in funding for five years through Fiscal Year 2024–2025 to help counties create a sustainable, unified system that supports families with the home visiting services they need and maximizes available funding to serve more families. Under this initiative, First 5 Solano received two years of funding to complete a local implementation Plan in collaboration with Solano County Public Health and Applied Survey Research, which will focus on collecting, sharing, and analyzing participation and retention data to help improve the home visiting system in Solano County. First 5 Solano attends Regional Technical Meetings led by First 5 Sonoma County, offering larger technical assistance opportunities for the 9 counties in the region.

First 5 Santa Clara Visit to Vallejo First 5 Center:

Leadership and staff from First 5 Santa Clara are expected to tour the Vallejo First 5 Center in October 2023. First 5 Santa Clara is in the process of reimagining their place-based community investment strategy and looking for ideas from other successful Bay Area First 5 partners – largely around how services, including programming and parent engagement, are integrated into program design. The tour will be followed by a discussion with First 5 Solano staff to provide history and background of how the Vallejo First 5 Center became a reality, and an update on plans to build another First 5 Center in Fairfield.

Solano County Fair

The Solano County Fair was held from June 15th to the 18th, with the theme "Celebrate Solano." First 5 Solano took part in the 2023 Solano County Fair by sponsoring a "First 5 Family Fun Zone" with the theme "Saddle Up." First 5 Solano, in collaboration with the Solano County Office of Education, Help Me Grow Solano, Child Start, and other community partners, provided families with information about programs and activities for children ages 0 to 5, such as bean bag toss, children's yoga practices, and the famous giant sandbox.



Pre-K Visits: While First 5 Solano transitions to the UPK survey and eventually to children all eligible for UPK, we continue to offer limited Pre-K Academies in Solano County. First 5 Solano has collaborated with three school districts offering 4-week sessions during the summer for children entering kindergarten in the fall who have had little to no prior preschool experience. Pre-K Academies were offered in three cities, Dixon, Fairfield and Vallejo in Solano County for a total of 7 sessions. We would like to thank Commissioners Nikila Gibson and Amy Fabi for visiting the Pre-K Academy classrooms and children this summer.



[Attachment A: Letter of Support for MCAH Grant Application](#)

September 22, 2023

COMMISSIONERS

Tyffany Wanberg

Chair

Lisette Estrella-Henderson

Amy Fabi

Erin Hannigan

Gerald Huber

Tiffanee Jones

Neely McElroy

Nimat Shakoor-Grantham

Nikila Walker-Gibson

STAFF

Michele Harris
Executive Director

Denise Winters
Deputy Director

Gene Ibe
Program Manager

Kwiana Algeré
Program Manager

Toya Adams
Program Manager

Caitlin Brakefield
Office Assistant III

Subject: DHCS' Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Grant

Dear CYBHI Grant Reviewer,

On behalf of First 5 Solano, I am writing to express my support for Solano County Department of Health & Social Services Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Bureau's grant application to the Department of Healthcare Services Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) grant. This proposal will support the implementation of innovative nurse-led program enhancements in the Community Nursing IMPACT program and strengthen the ongoing effort to increase access to mental health and substance abuse supports and intervene early before conditions worsen.

We know that a child's brain develops 95% by age five, providing a critical window of opportunity to support strong beginnings. Research shows that challenges children face early in life can lead to life-long negative outcomes and high-community cost, including school drop-out, incarceration, chronic health problems, and isolation within the community.

The MCAH Bureau has been a leader in the community, working to improve maternal and child health, for over twenty-five years. First 5 Solano has successfully partnered with Health & Social Services and the MCAH Bureau over many years to address disparities and improve outcomes for children in Solano County through direct services programs as well as community collaborations.

Currently First 5 Solano works with MCAH Bureau staff on several programs including Nurse-Family Partnership, the Community Advisory Board, and our Solano Kids Thrive collective impact initiative.

Your selection of Solano County as a grantee will assist Solano County in closing the gap in services needed for families served by the Community Nursing IMPACT program.

Sincerely,



Michele Harris
Executive Director

First 5 Solano's Equity Statement

As Solano is one of the most diverse counties in the nation, First 5 Solano's mission and values are deeply rooted in: Equity, Accessibility, Sustainability, Advocacy, Collaboration, Respect, and Representation. We aim to create an equitable and inclusive culture that fosters acceptance and respect for diversity. In doing so, we seek to deepen understanding and knowledge among children, families, staff, and community partners of diverse backgrounds, cultivate empathy and collaboration, and promote well-being among our staff, partners and the communities we serve. First 5 Solano celebrates and is enriched by the diversity of our whole community



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