

COMMISSION MEETING
January 24, 2024 – 3:00-5:00pm
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA 94590

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 | <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> | Information |
| II. Consent Calendar (5 min) | | Action |
| A. Approve the January 24, 2024 Commission Meeting Agenda | | |
| B. Approve the October 18, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes | | |
| C. Approve the November 8, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes | | |
| III. Election of 2024 First 5 Solano Commission Officers (5 min) | | Action |
| Consider approval of the appointment of Amy Fabi as 2024 Chair and Neely McElroy as 2024 Vice-Chair of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
<i>Michele Harris, Executive Director</i> | | |
| IV. Positive Parenting Awareness Month Resolution (10 min) | | Action |
| Consider approval of Resolution #2024-01 recognizing January 2024 as “Positive Parenting Awareness Month” in Solano County
<i>Alicia Gutierrez, Health Education Specialist, Kwiana Algere, Contract Manager</i> | | |
| V. Policy and Oversight Committee - Committee Chair: Amy Fabi (15 min) | | Action |
| A. Consider a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee to approve the 2024 Legislative Platform | | |
| B. Consider a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee to approve the FY2024/25 Commission and Committee Meeting Schedule | | |
| VI. First 5 Center Update (30 min) | | Information /Discussion |
| Receive an update on the activities of the First 5 Center over the 2023 year
<i>Denise Winters, Deputy Director, Nina Diaz, Bay Area Community Resources, First 5 Center Director</i> | | |
| VII. Executive Director’s Report (10 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 March 20, 2024 at 3:00PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items: Proposed FY2024/25 Commission Budget | | |

ADJOURN

Tyffany Wanberg, Chair
Amy Fabi, Vice Chair
Nimat Shakoor-Grantham
Lisette Estrella-Henderson
Gerald Huber



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

Tiffanee Jones
Erin Hannigan
Neely McElroy
Nikila Walker-Gibson
Michele Harris, ED

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**

October 18, 2023, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Estrella-Henderson (via Zoom), Hannigan (joined at 3:22 PM), Jones (via Zoom), McElroy, Shakoor-Grantham, Walker-Gibson, Vice Chair Fabi, Chair Wanberg (via Zoom)

Vice Chair Fabi called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

I. Public Comment

First 5 Solano welcomed new staff members, Toya Adams and Alicia Gutierrez. Toya Adams is replacing former Contract and Program Manager Lorraine Fernandez while Alicia Gutierrez has been hired as a Health Education Specialist, replacing Kwiana Algere who was promoted to a Contract and Program Manager.

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

A. Approve the October 18, 2023 Commission Meeting Agenda

B. Approve the June 21, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes

Consent Calendar moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Walker-Gibson

Approved 8-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Chair Appoints Nominating Committee for 2024 Officers

Vice Chair Amy Fabi inquired about potential 2024 Commission Officers; Commissioners Estrella-Henderson and Walker-Gibson volunteered.

IV. Public Hearing: First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Annual Report

[Public Hearing was opened at 3:57 PM]

Accept 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.

First 5 Solano Contract & Program Manager Gene Ibe presented First 5 Solano's FY2022/23 Annual Report. The Annual Report consists of 4 components, including Performance Measures & Impact, Systems Change Update, Fiscal, and Demographics. Reporting performance is based upon answering the questions "How Much Did We Do?" "How Well Did We Do It?" and "Is Anyone Better Off?". Compared to last fiscal year, there was a 6% increase in services to residents (13,753 served; 7,185 children 0-5, 6,293 parents/caregivers, 275 providers). The majority of those who received services identified as Hispanic. A total of 1,270 parents attended a Triple P service with pre- and post-participant surveys showing that nearly all parents improved in their parenting skills. The IMPACT program was offered in person this year with 44 early learning sites participating and 100% of sites developing quality improvement plans. Raising a Reader saw 1,331 children participate and 91% of staff reported that children were excited about receiving new books. With the introduction of universal pre-kindergarten, pre-k academies were tapered down this year. 14 pre-k academies were offered over the summer with data showing that significant increases noticed in children's abilities over the 4-week program. Help Me Grow Solano assisted 2,186 families through their call line with 4,319 referrals being made to service providers. The Vallejo First 5 Center saw 1,770 individuals (comprising of 906 children and 864 parents/caregivers) participating in at least one class or event. Of those, 389 parents/caregivers received a consultation and were connected with resources and follow-up. As COVID-19 restrictions relaxed, class sizes increased and 100% of families who completed a class series and post series survey demonstrated increased knowledge and awareness of healthy behaviors. Through annual grants, 898 children, 492 parents/caregivers, and 61 providers were provided services.

Applied Survey Research's Christina Branom presented on the Early Childhood Systems Change Update. F5S uses a strategic framework to improve the lives of young children and their families. Included in this are 4 priority areas: Health and Well-Being, Early Childhood Learning and Development, Family Support and Parent Education, and Systems Change. The goal of the Systems Change priority was to be strong, integrated, sufficiently resourced, and equitable. Systems are strengthened by increasing capacity of providers, systems are integrated by resource sharing, referral, and collaboration, systems are expanded and sustained with financial resources and policy/legislative change, and systems are equitable by providing resources in most needed areas and prioritizing efforts to address inequities related to race, geography, and socio-economic status.

First 5 Solano FY2022/23 Annual Report moved by Commissioner Shakoorn-Grantham; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson

Approved 8-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

[Public Hearing was closed at 3:57 PM]

V. Early Learning Center Update

Motion: Consider obligating up to \$1.72M 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

First 5 Solano Executive Director Michele Harris and Deputy Director Denise Winters presented an update on Vallejo's Early Learning Center (ELC). Ms. Harris gave a brief origin story on the chosen site for the ELC and gave data on childcare and preschool availability in Solano County. The vision of the ELC is a "Whole Child, Whole Family approach" which would incorporate providers, classrooms, childcare coaches along with dedicated space to house Health and Social Services, a Family Resource Center, a food pantry, and (if funding allows) a library. The ELC team consists of Solano County Office of Education, First 5 Solano, Vallejo City Unified School District, Child Start Inc., and Terra Realty Advisors. Ms. Winters presented on the facility housing the ELC; the former Beverly Hills Elementary School at 1450 Coronel Avenue. First 5 Solano plans on purchasing this site for \$2.8M and intends to transfer ownership to Child Start in order to complete renovations and operate the ELC. Phase 1 of the ELC includes renovations (interior and exterior refresh, add toilets to classrooms, replace existing playground with age appropriate play area, resurface blacktop, convert kitchen to central laundry room) while Phase 2 will see construction of a new Community Resource Building on the back side of the campus, which will house various Solano County departments (Public Health, Child Welfare, and Behavioral Health), a bodega designed food pantry, shared conference room, lobby, restrooms, breastfeeding room, and (if funding allows) a library. Thus far, there are \$14.8M in funds committed and an additional \$14M in requested funding. If requested funding is not granted, there will be a gap of \$1.72M needed to complete Phase 1.

Early Learning Center Update moved by Commissioner Jones; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson

Approved 8-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

VI. Policy and Oversight Committee

As there was no Policy & Oversight Committee (POC) meeting on October 2nd, 2023, POC Chair Fabi had nothing to report.

VII. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Michele Harris reported that the First 5 Association has a sustainability collaborative that is preparing an ask of \$100M from the State to help address future projected shortfall of funds. As the collaborative moves forward, Ms. Harris will report back to the Commission.

VIII. Commissioner Remarks

No Commissioner remarks.

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

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

Adjourn

Vice Chair Fabi adjourned the meeting at 5:07 PM.

Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III

Approved:

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

November 8, 2023, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Hannigan, Huber, Jones, McElroy, Walker-Gibson, Vice Chair Fabi

Vice Chair Fabi called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM.

I. Public Comment

No public comment.

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

A. Approve the November 8, 2023 Commission Meeting Agenda

Consent Calendar moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner McElroy

Approved 6-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Public Hearing: FY2022/23 Annual Audit

Motion:

A. Receive the FY2022/23 First 5 Solano Audit

Deputy Director Denise Winters introduced Eide Bailey's James Ramsey, lead partner on First 5 Solano's Annual Audit. While Mr. Ramsey did notate a clean audit, there were five audit exceptions (broken into two categories of Financial Reporting and Contract Monitoring) that Ms. Winters discussed. These exceptions include findings in year-end accruals and in contract monitoring. Ms. Winters communicated that she is working more closely with the Auditor Controller's Office to avoid any future year-end issues and explicitly conveying expectations with grantees in regards to their contract obligations.

FY2022/23 Annual Audit moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Jones

Approved 6-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

IV. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Hannigan noted that the Syar Summit, scheduled for November 9th, 2023, will be hosted at Touro University in Vallejo and will present possible funding opportunities to outside funders, including the presentation of the Vallejo Early Learning Center (ELC) as a shovel-ready project that needs additional funding to be completed. Also in regards to the Vallejo ELC, Commissioner Jones asked if there will be an opportunity to name ELC classrooms after or for funders, which Executive Director Harris confirmed, but stated that is further down the timeline for the ELC.

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

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.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Fabi adjourned the meeting at 3:39 PM.

Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DATE: January 17, 2024
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director
SUBJ: Election of 2024 First 5 Solano Commission Officers

Motion: Consider approval of the appointment of Amy Fabi as 2024 Chair and Neely McElroy as 2024 Vice-Chair of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Each year, the First 5 Solano Commission elects its officers (Chair and Vice-Chair) for the next year as per its Bylaws. The Commission has a past practice of offering the chair and vice-chair officer positions to those commissioners that have joined the commission and have not yet served as an officer, and can participate for 3 years on the Policy and Oversight Committee (past chair, chair, vice chair). Based on this tenure, the two Commissioners listed above have agreed to serve as the next Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission.

This item brings forward a motion to approve Amy Fabi as 2024 as 2024 Chair and Neely McElroy as 2024 Vice-Chair of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission. Officers serve a term of one calendar year in the position, beginning with the January Commission meeting.

Resolution No. 2024-01

RESOLUTION OF THE FIRST 5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION PROCLAIMING JANUARY 2024 AS “POSITIVE PARENTING AWARENESS MONTH” IN SOLANO COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, multiple agencies throughout Solano County, Bay Area Community Resources, Catholic Charities Yolo-Solano, Child Start Inc., Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, - Healthy Start Family Resource Center, Parents by Choice, and Solano Family and Children’s Services; and

WHEREAS, Triple P is an effective and universal parenting intervention, serving approximately 7,840 parents of diverse backgrounds in Solano County within the last six years; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission hereby proclaim January 2024 as Positive Parenting Awareness Month in Solano County and encourages all residents to work to support the health, safety and well-being of children and youth in Solano County.

Dated this 24th day of January 2024

NEELY MCELROY, Chair
First 5 Solano Families and Children Commission

ATTEST:

Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

DATE: January 24, 2024
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Policy and Oversight Committee
Amy Fabi, Chair
SUBJ: **2024 Legislative Platform**

Motion: *Consider a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee to approve the 2024 Legislative Platform*

Staff conducted a review of the Commission’s legislative platform. As part of this process, staff reviewed the Solano County Federal and State 2023 Legislative Platforms, as well as the policy platforms from the First 5 Association, First 5 California, and Children Now. These platforms were reviewed alongside the 2022 First 5 Solano Strategic Plan and Strategic Plan Framework to assure that the proposed 2024 Legislative Platform is a best fit for the First 5 Solano Commission’s Strategic Plan. The platform provides the Commission the opportunity to weigh in on proposed legislative action via letters of support/opposition at the local, state, and federal levels.

First 5 Solano staff reviewed the 2023 legislative platform priorities to ensure there is alignment with the First 5 California and First 5 Association priorities. The review and revision of the 2023 priorities found there is a concerted effort statewide to center equity across First 5 portfolios. Staff has recommended minor changes to the 2024 Legislative Platform that focus on equity, in an effort to affect sustainable changes that support equity and inclusion.

The redline draft and the final draft of the First 5 solano Children and Families Commission 2024 Legislative Platform are attached to this report as [Attachment A1](#) and [A2](#). The Policy and Oversight Committee reviewed the 2024 Legislative Platform, noted the increased attention to equity, and is recommending the Commission approve the Platform.

Attachment: [V A1 2024 Legislative Platform-track changes](#)
[V A2 2024 Legislative Platform-clean version](#)



FIRST 5 SOLANO

2024 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



PURPOSE

The ability of First 5 Solano and its partners to serve its residents and provide for a thriving and sustainable community requires support from all levels of government. As a part of this governmental structure, First 5 Solano recognizes its role as a content expert in the field of children ages 0-5 and their families. First 5 Solano has developed this legislative platform to be responsive to the changing landscape for our constituents and to allow the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission a mechanism with which to weigh in on activities that will impact children and families.

POLICY INFLUENCE PARTNERS

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission is an agency of Solano County, and as such, supports and aligns with the Solano County State and Federal Legislative Platforms. In addition, First 5 Solano partners with many outside agencies to develop and influence legislative and policy changes on behalf of the children of Solano County. This legislative platform is designed to support and enhance the work of the many partners engaged in this critical work, including Solano County, the First 5 Association, First 5 California, Children Now, First 5 Solano contractors and many others.

THE LANDSCAPE FOR 2024

First 5 Solano strategically invests in services, supports, and resources that will achieve equity in the community and ensure all Solano County children are healthy, eager to learn, and nurtured by strong families in safe and inclusive environments. The COVID – 19 pandemic had a profound impact on families and children, and created unprecedented challenges to access resources and supports for historically underrepresented under-resourced communities. Even with all of the supports that have been provided to families during the COVID-19 pandemic, First 5 Solano continues to be deeply concerned about the challenges that children and families are experiencing, especially in our low-income communities and communities of color. As one of the most diverse counties in the nation, Solano County has been particularly affected by the disproportionate impact of the pandemic caused largely by systemic inequities, underscoring the importance of efforts to make systems fair and just for all young children and families in the county.

First 5 Solano adopted a new strategic plan in January 2022, with a renewed focus on the priority areas of Health and Well Being; Family Support & Parent Education, Early Childhood Learning and Development; and Systems Change. In the November 2022 Election, the voters passed Proposition 31, a ban on flavored tobacco products. While First 5 supports this ban, the resources from tobacco taxes are expected to be reduced by 20%, significantly impacting First 5's ability to support community programming. First 5 Solano staff and commissioners will continue to advocate for an increased in equitable resources focused on expanding and sustaining its current level of programing -for young children and families, ~~to sustain its current level of programming.~~

As First 5 Solano implements this 2024 Legislative Platform, efforts will include advocating for continued resources and supports for young children and families; raising local and state leaders' awareness of inequities First 5's revenue imbalance; and, advocating for policies that promote equity across systems.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Health Goal 1: Children ~~and~~ their parents, and caregivers have access to equitable, robust, continuous and affordable health coverage and health care services.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Protect children and families' access to health care.
- B. Ensure every pregnant mother and child ages 0-5 has affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage, including medical, dental, vision and mental health services.
- C. Maximize enrollment in Medi-Cal for eligible families and individuals.

Health Goal 2: Children grow up healthy and stay on track developmentally.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure that all children receive regular, routine developmental screenings, and are linked to needed supports as appropriate.
- B. Invest in and improve coordination across systems of care to efficiently connect young children to early intervention.

Health Goal 3: Pregnant women, children and their families are nourished and healthy.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Support high-quality programs and services that increase access to affordable, quality and nutritious foods for all children and families.
- B. Increase supports for breastfeeding, family leave, and baby-friendly policies in all settings.
- C. Maximize enrollment in WIC and CalFresh for eligible families and individuals.

Health Goal 4: Young children are not abused or neglected, and receive robust services to foster resilience.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure that all professionals working with young children and families complete training on trauma-informed practices, and the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect, and how to foster resilience
- B. Expand access to evidence-based family strengthening programs, including voluntary home visiting, which optimize child development and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect.
- C. Expand access to timely, high-quality services that reduce the impact of trauma on young children.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Family Support Goal 1: Families' basic needs are met.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Strengthen the social safety-net to ensure families are self-sufficient and can meet their basic economic needs, such as food, housing, child care, transportation and health care.
- B. Support sustainability of Family Resource Centers and other community hubs for integrated services for children and families.
- C. Support streamlined application processes for critical safety net programs such as CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal.

Family Support Goal 2: Parents and caregivers forge healthy bonds with their newborns and very young children.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure that maternal and early childhood home visiting programs, including evidence-based programs for the highest-need parents and children, are available to all families who wish to participate.
- B. Support evidence-based parent education and engagement initiatives that strengthen the bond between parent and child.

Family Support Goal 3: Families experiencing risk factors or circumstances that may jeopardize their health or well-being, including Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) are identified early and provided with the resources they need.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure that every parent and caregiver has easy access to a place in their community that can guide and support them in finding the help they need.
- B. Ensure that young foster children are placed with safe, nurturing and supportive caregivers, and experience minimal placement disruptions.

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Early Learning Goal 1: Adults have the information, skills and support they need to help children learn.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure every parent and caregiver has access to educational programs that offer information and guidance to aid in their child's learning.
- B. Ensure every parent and caregiver has the opportunity to learn about early social/emotional and cognitive development, and that caregiver-ready tools to promote healthy attachment, early language, numeracy and problem-solving skills are available.

Early Learning Goal 2: Child care and development programs for infants and toddlers are affordable, accessible, high quality, and meet the needs of families.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Increase the quality and number of state-funded early learning slots for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
- B. Embed high-quality standards in all state-funded early learning programs and support state and local efforts to meet them.
- C. Strengthen the qualifications, compensation and stability of the early learning workforce, across mixed early childcare and learning delivery systems.

Early Learning Goal 3: Support the implementation of Universal Transitional Kindergarten that aligns with and maximizes resources for the early learning and childcare systems.

- A. Support policies, legislation and funding that promote articulation between early learning, childcare and transitional kindergarten.
- B. Support policies and legislation that move toward alignment in the qualifications and compensation for the early learning, childcare and transitional kindergarten workforce.
- C. Promote meaningful access to sustainability of high-quality, culturally-responsive early child care and educational programs to achieve [learningschool](#) readiness for children ~~birth~~ [through age 5.](#)

STRONG COMMUNITIES

Strong Community Goal 1: Ensure that existing systems are sustainable and equitable so that Solano's youngest children and their families thrive.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Explore and advance opportunities to preserve and increase funding streams dedicated to early childhood, including Proposition 10 revenues.
- B. Improve state and county data systems to track children's outcomes.
- C. Promote inclusion of funding for children ages 0-5 and their families in existing and new revenue policy discussions.
- D. Promote legislation that increases taxes on combustible tobacco products, tobacco-based inhalation devices, and electronic cigarettes, and uses the revenue for children and family programs, including smoking cessation programs.
- E. Support legislation and funding to address and advance equity in all policies and initiatives in the areas of health and well-being, family support, and early childhood learning and development.

Strong Community Goal 2: Families are connected with one another and to their communities.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Sustain efforts of local First 5 Commissions, libraries, hospitals and community-based organizations to provide family-friendly space for parents and caregivers to gather.
- B. Foster community engagement in local and state government decision-making, such as parent and caregiver councils ~~in early learning programs~~ and representation on public service system boards.

~~B.C.~~ Advocate for funding opportunities that prioritizes early childhood investments, including promoting family friendly and culturally appropriate programs and resources designed to foster connection and inclusiveness within their communities.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

2024 Solano County State & Federal Legislative Platforms

Children Now Pro-Kid Agenda

First 5 Association Policy Platform

First 5 California Policy Platform

[S:\SYSTEMS CHANGE\Legislative and Policy Work\Legislative Platform](#)

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FIRST 5 SOLANO

2024 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



PURPOSE

The ability of First 5 Solano and its partners to serve its residents and provide for a thriving and sustainable community requires support from all levels of government. As a part of this governmental structure, First 5 Solano recognizes its role as a content expert in the field of children ages 0-5 and their families. First 5 Solano has developed this legislative platform to be responsive to the changing landscape for our constituents and to allow the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission a mechanism with which to weigh in on activities that will impact children and families.

POLICY INFLUENCE PARTNERS

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THE LANDSCAPE FOR 2024

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First 5 Solano adopted a new strategic plan in January 2022, with a renewed focus on the priority areas of Health and Well Being; Family Support & Parent Education, Early Childhood Learning and Development; and Systems Change. In the November 2022 Election, the voters passed Proposition 31, a ban on flavored tobacco products. While First 5 supports this ban, the resources from tobacco taxes are expected to be reduced by 20%, significantly impacting First 5's ability to support community programming. First 5 Solano staff and commissioners will continue to advocate for an increase in equitable resources focused on expanding and sustaining its current level of programming for young children and families.

As First 5 Solano implements this 2024 Legislative Platform, efforts will include advocating for continued resources and supports for young children and families; raising local and state leaders' awareness of First 5's revenue imbalance; and, advocating for policies that promote equity across systems.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Health Goal 1: Children, their parents, and caregivers have access to equitable, robust, continuous and affordable health coverage and health care services.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Protect children and families' access to health care.
- B. Ensure every pregnant mother and child ages 0-5 has affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage, including medical, dental, vision and mental health services.
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Health Goal 2: Children grow up healthy and stay on track developmentally.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure that all children receive regular, routine developmental screenings, and are linked to needed supports as appropriate.
- B. Invest in and improve coordination across systems of care to efficiently connect young children to early intervention.

Health Goal 3: Pregnant women, children and their families are nourished and healthy.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Support high-quality programs and services that increase access to affordable, quality and nutritious foods for all children and families.
- B. Increase supports for breastfeeding, family leave, and baby-friendly policies in all settings.
- C. Maximize enrollment in WIC and CalFresh for eligible families and individuals.

Health Goal 4: Young children are not abused or neglected and receive robust services to foster resilience.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure that all professionals working with young children and families complete training on trauma-informed practices, and the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect, and how to foster resilience
- B. Expand access to evidence-based family strengthening programs, including voluntary home visiting, which optimize child development and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect.
- C. Expand access to timely, high-quality services that reduce the impact of trauma on young children.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Family Support Goal 1: Families' basic needs are met.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Strengthen the social safety-net to ensure families are self-sufficient and can meet their basic economic needs, such as food, housing, childcare, transportation and health care.
- B. Support sustainability of Family Resource Centers and other community hubs for integrated services for children and families.
- C. Support streamlined application processes for critical safety net programs such as CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal.

Family Support Goal 2: Parents and caregivers forge healthy bonds with their newborns and very young children.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure that maternal and early childhood home visiting programs, including evidence-based programs for the highest-need parents and children, are available to all families who wish to participate.
- B. Support evidence-based parent education and engagement initiatives that strengthen the bond between parent and child.

Family Support Goal 3: Families experiencing risk factors or circumstances that may jeopardize their health or well-being, including Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) are identified early and provided with the resources they need.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure that every parent and caregiver has easy access to a place in their community that can guide and support them in finding the help they need.
- B. Ensure that young foster children are placed with safe, nurturing and supportive caregivers, and experience minimal placement disruptions.

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Early Learning Goal 1: Adults have the information, skills and support they need to help children learn.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Ensure every parent and caregiver has access to educational programs that offer information and guidance to aid in their child's learning.
- B. Ensure every parent and caregiver has the opportunity to learn about early social/emotional and cognitive development, and that caregiver-ready tools to promote healthy attachment, early language, numeracy and problem-solving skills are available.

Early Learning Goal 2: Childcare and development programs for infants and toddlers are affordable, accessible, high quality, and meet the needs of families.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Increase the quality and number of state-funded early learning slots for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.
- B. Embed high-quality standards in all state-funded early learning programs and support state and local efforts to meet them.
- C. Strengthen the qualifications, compensation and stability of the early learning workforce, across mixed early childcare and learning delivery systems

Early Learning Goal 3: Support the implementation of Universal Transitional Kindergarten that aligns with and maximizes resources for the early learning and childcare systems.

- A. Support policies, legislation and funding that promote articulation between early learning, childcare and transitional kindergarten.
- B. Support policies and legislation that move toward alignment in the qualifications and compensation for the early learning, childcare and transitional kindergarten workforce.
- C. Promote meaningful access to sustainability of high-quality, culturally responsive early childcare and educational programs to achieve school readiness for children.

STRONG COMMUNITIES

Strong Community Goal 1: Ensure that existing systems are sustainable and equitable so that Solano's youngest children and their families thrive.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Explore and advance opportunities to preserve and increase funding streams dedicated to early childhood, including Proposition 10 revenues.
- B. Improve state and county data systems to track children's outcomes.
- C. Promote inclusion of funding for children ages 0-5 and their families in existing and new revenue policy discussions.
- D. Promote legislation that increases taxes on combustible tobacco products, tobacco-based inhalation devices, and electronic cigarettes, and uses the revenue for children and family programs, including smoking cessation programs.
- E. Support legislation and funding to address and advance equity in all policies and initiatives in the areas of health and well-being, family support, and early childhood learning and development.

Strong Community Goal 2: Families are connected with one another and to their communities.

Policy Opportunities:

- A. Sustain efforts of local First 5 Commissions, libraries, hospitals and community-based organizations to provide family-friendly space for parents and caregivers to gather.
- B. Foster community engagement in local and state government decision-making, such as parent and caregiver councils and representation on public service system boards.
- C. Advocate for funding opportunities that prioritizes early childhood investments, including promoting family friendly and culturally appropriate programs and resources designed to foster connection and inclusiveness within their communities.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

2024 Solano County State & Federal Legislative Platforms

Children Now Pro-Kid Agenda

First 5 Association Policy Platform

First 5 California Policy Platform

S:\SYSTEMS CHANGE\Legislative and Policy Work\Legislative Platform

"C:\Users\Tnadams\OneDrive - County of Solano\Desktop\MEETINGS\First 5 Association Policy Meetings\F5CA_2023_24_Young_Childrens_Policy_Agenda.pdf"



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

DATE: January 17, 2024

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Policy and Oversight Committee
Amy Fabi, Chair

SUBJ: **Commission and Committee Meeting Schedule FY2024/25, Staff Report**

Motion: *Consider a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee to approve the FY2024/25 Commission and Committee Meeting Schedule*

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission approves its Commission and Committee Meeting Schedule for the entire year prior to the start of the fiscal year, in an effort to earmark those dates on the calendar to ensure the best chance of a quorum for each meeting. This year, staff is recommending a change to the meeting schedule. Staff is recommending that the Committee meetings that are between 2 months that both have full Commission meetings be eliminated. This way, the Commission has a commitment of 12 meetings per year. Of those 12 meetings, the full Commission will attend 7 of those Commission meetings and the 3 commissioners assigned to the Policy and Oversight Committee will attend 5 meetings per year. This provides the staff time to prepare in between meetings and cancel less meetings due to lack of agenda items.

This revised meeting schedule with 1 meeting per month (12 per year) with the full Commission members attending the 7 Commission meetings is presented for Commission consideration as [Attachment V B](#).

[Attachment:](#) V B FY2024/25 Commission and Committee Meeting Schedule



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

FY2024/25 First 5 Solano Commission & Committee Meeting Schedule

Commission Meetings 3 rd Wednesday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm 3375 Sonoma Blvd, Ste 30 Vallejo	Policy and Oversight Committee 4 th Monday 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM 3375 Sonoma Blvd, Ste 30 Vallejo	
January 24, 2024	January 8, 2024	Previously Approved Schedule
March 20	March 4	
April 17	April 1	
June 19	June 3	
	July 22	
August 21		
	September 23	
October 16		
	November 25	
December 18		
January 15, 2025		
	February 24, 2025	
March 19		
April 16		
	May 26	
June 18		



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

DATE: January 17, 2024
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Denise Winters, Deputy Director
SUBJ: **First 5 Center Presentation**

As the First 5 Center, Vallejo, is preparing to celebrate their 4th Birthday this February, staff have worked with the director of the center to preparing an update on services and activities provided for our children and families in Solano County. The center offers parenting/caregiver classes using the evidence based model of Triple P, provides ASQ's with the support of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) through Health & Social Services, family support services with an onsite food pantry through the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, fun activities such as reading events, and many other engaging activities to encourage the community to come together in support of our youngest members in the community.

The impact of the First 5 Center remains on an upward trend, in 2023 all performance measures were met. The First 5 Center engaged almost 1,500 individuals in their different services, 304 families were connected to resources through the First 5 Center's Community Resource Specialist, more than 200 children were screened for early identification of developmental or social emotional challenges using the Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ-2 and ASQ-3), with approximately 25% identified as "at-risk", and referred to resources in Solano County and Triple P classes were offered to parents and caregivers. With the ability to offer open play spaces, drop-in classes, the amazing and evidence-based programs, the First 5 Center, Vallejo, looks forward in continuing to serve to our community.

[Attachment A: First 5 Center Presentation](#)



Serving Solano County

Location: 3375 Sonoma Blvd #10, Vallejo CA
94590

Phone: (707) 784 - 1240

Monday - Saturday


1

Who are we?

The First 5 Center, Vallejo, is a community center serving parents and caregivers with little ones from 0-5 years. It offers caregiver and child classes, parenting classes, events and resources. Families are able to socialize and create new connections in a warm and inviting space. All services are free to the families.



2



January/February 2024 Preference Sheet Date: _____

Parent/Caregiver First & Last Name	Child's First & Last Name	Age of Child	Child's Date of Birth	Parent/Caregiver Phone Number	First class with us?	City of Residence

We are so glad to have you participate in our classes this session! Space is limited but we will do our best to place you in an available class. Your class will be confirmed via phone call one week prior to start date. Verbal confirmation is required to receive placement in the current session. All Solano County residents may participate in Center classes and events; Priority is given to Vallejo residents.

PARENT/CAREGIVER-CHILD CLASSES
Please number your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices for all parent-child classes. Classes in RED are VIRTUAL. Zoom and activity bag information will be given upon confirmation of enrollment. Classes in BLACK are IN-PERSON. Classes in PURPLE are Spanish Immersion classes taught in 100% Spanish.

MONDAY
Dress to Impress (3-5 years) 10:30am-11:30am
6 weeks (January 22, 29, February 5, 12)

TUESDAY
12 families meet in order of arrival!
Real 'N' Rules (2-3 years) 10:30am-11:30am
6 weeks (January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20)

WEDNESDAY
Music & Me (2-3 years) 10:45am-11:45am
6 weeks (January 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21)

THURSDAY
Little Ballerina (3-5 years) 10am-11am
6 weeks (January 18, 25, February 8, 15, 22)

FRIDAY
The Incredible (4-5 years) 10:15am-11:15am
6 weeks (January 19, 26, February 9, 16, 23)

PARENT/CAREGIVER-ONLY CLASSES
Parents/Caregivers may choose as many classes as you would like. Child watch for children ages 0-5 years old will be provided for in-person classes. Classes will cap at 12 adults per class, confirmation will be required for attendance.


PARENT SELF-CARE: BREAK TIME!
This class is for the parents! We will be taking time for ourselves to relax, converse, and do different activities with each other. Come and take a break with us!
TUESDAY, 1:15pm-2:15pm
6 weeks (January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20)

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Interested in discussing ways we can better our community? Connect with other parents and caregivers as we discuss ways we can make our vision a reality!
MONDAY, January 8, 1pm-2pm
MONDAY, February 5, 9:30am-10:30am

PARENT CAFE
Come join other parents and caregivers for light snacks and beverages in a safe space to explore your strengths and learn from one another.
THURSDAY, January 11, 2pm-3pm
MONDAY, February 5, 1pm-2:30pm

TRIPLE P
Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) is an evidence based program that encourages parents to choose their own family goals while we provide strategies to achieve them.
Triple P Level 2-SPANISH
MONDAY, February 19, 10am-11:30am
Triple P Level 2-ENGLISH
MONDAY, January 29, 1pm-2:30pm
Triple P Level 4 Group-SPANISH
WEDNESDAY, January 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28
8 weeks (1pm-3pm)

Got Questions? Call: 707-784-1240 Text: 707-229-0190 Email: VallejoFirstCenter@gmail.com





Want the most recent updates? Follow us @VallejoFirstCenter on Facebook and Instagram!

Classes

We offer Caregiver and Child classes

All classes are listed on our Preference sheet!

3

Drop-In Classes

For January/February

Drop-In classes every Tuesday & Saturday Morning




4



Open Play Space

**Open Monday through Friday
9am-2pm
During active session Saturdays
9am-12pm**

All enrolled families can drop-in for Open Play Space. Activities will be available for families to play and interact with their little ones in our main space.

5

Fun in Open Play Space



FEATURING
Reading
Art
Scavenger Hunts
Pretend Play
Dancing
Toys
Bubble Parties
Flying Scarves

6

Community Events

We have events every month!
First 5 Center 4th Birthday - February 27, 2024



7

Parent Education & Support

There are a variety of ways for parents to engage at the First 5 Center, Vallejo:

1. Triple P Seminars
 - Raising Resilient Children
 - Raising Competent & Confident Children
 - Power of Positive Parenting
2. Triple P One-on-One Assistance
3. Triple P Parenting Groups
4. Parent Café's
5. Parenting Advisory Committee
6. Parent Self Care Workshops



8

Community Resource Specialist

Position dedicated to supporting families with resources and/or a warm hand-off to community partners

COMMUNITY RESOURCE SPECIALIST: VERONICA LEDESMA

Do you need help getting connected to community resources including:

- Housing
- Food assistance
- Child care
- Child support
- Employment
- Financial hardship
- Mental health services

CALL: 707-784-1232
OR EMAIL: VLEDESMA@BACR.ORG

Just need diapers and wipes? Stop by on Thursday's from 9am-11am or call Veronica to schedule a pick-up appointment any other day!



9

First 5 Family Food Pantry

In Partnership with the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano, the First 5 Center now has a Food Pantry.

- To participate a family must be enrolled at the Center (have a little one from 0-5)
- Families complete a brief form for data reporting



10

Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)

Cintha Morales- Early Intervention Screening Facilitator

Provides ASQ-3 and ASQ SE developmental screenings
Triple P Level 3 one on one Appointments
cmorales@bacr.org



ASQ APPOINTMENT

The Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) provides reliable, accurate developmental and social-emotional screening for children between birth and age 5. It looks at strengths and trouble spots, educates parents about developmental milestones, and incorporates parents' expert knowledge about their children.

Date: _____

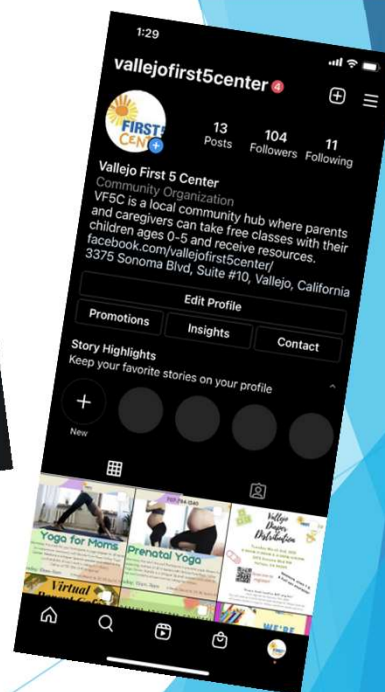
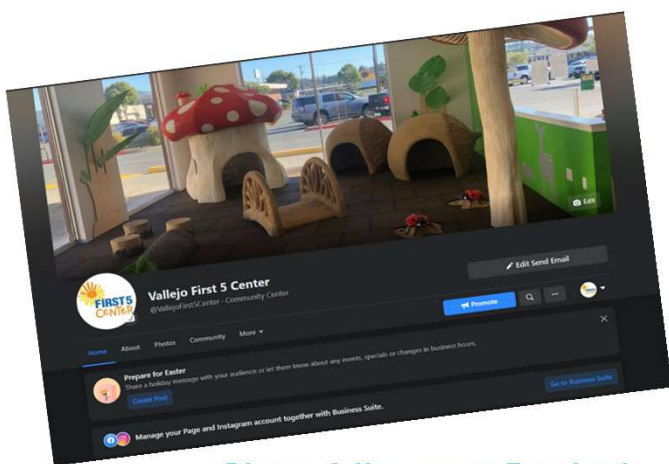
Time: _____

Facilitator: _____

3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite #10 Vallejo, CA 94590 707-784-1239 (Daisy) 707-784-1240 (main)

11

Social Media



Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

12

Impact in 2023

- 1,444 individuals engaged in services at the Center
- The Community Resource Specialist provided consultations to 304 families, connecting them with community resources
- 76 Six-week series classes were held.
- 24 One-time drop-in classes and special activities were held
- Throughout 13 Playgroup classes, 153 children focused on physical development



13

Impact in 2023

- Throughout 13 Playgroup classes, 153 children focused on physical developmental skills and social-emotional capacity building
- 207 children were screened for early identification of developmental or social-emotional challenges using the Ages and Stages questionnaires (ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2). 48 of the children screened were identified as “at-risk” and were referred for follow up.
- 526 households accessed the First 5 Family Food Pantry in partnership with the Food Bank



14

Families witness and support their child's development throughout each class

“From participating while in her parents’ arms, to then sitting upward by herself, to then crawling, walking and more! It has been a complete joy to see how quickly she has grown and what she has learned in this span of time.”



15

Thank You!

Nina Diaz
First 5 Center, Vallejo Director
(707) 784-1231
Nina.diaz@bacr.org

16

DATE: January 17, 2024

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director

SUBJ: **Executive Director's Report for January 24, 2024**

Syar Foundation Summit: On November 9, 2023, Solano Economic Development Corporation (EDC) held a capacity building summit for non-profit organizations, foundations, business leaders, and public officials. First 5 Solano participated in the planning for the Summit and provided funding to Solano EDC to support this event. Several First 5 Solano staff attended the conference making connections with funders and non-profits in Solano County. The conference focused on nonprofit capacity building, with the objective to increase philanthropic funding and interest locally.

The conference brought together nonprofit leaders, funders, and community leaders to discuss the nonprofit landscape in Solano County and find ways to collaborate and support nonprofits who are serving the communities in Solano County. The Early Learning Center was presented by Supervisor Hannigan as a spotlight project for funders consideration, as a shovel-ready project intended to be transformative for children, families, and the community. A few of the funders who attended the Summit were the James Irvine Foundation, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Wells Fargo, Kaiser Permanent, Sutter Medical Foundation, San Francisco Foundation, Untied Way, Umpqua, Gerbode Foundation, and a host of other potential funders. Nonprofit partners closed out the day by participating in a capacity building session facilitated by Jon McCoy and Becky Endicott, co-founders of *We Are for Good*.

First 5 Santa Clara visits Vallejo First 5 Center: First 5 Santa Clara is seeking to reimagine its community investment strategy and came to tour the Vallejo First 5 Center, and hear about the program and services, in particular the connection within the neighborhood. F5 Santa Clara has connected with several Bay Area First 5's to understand various programming models and how services are integrated, particularly within the community through parent engagement. The Santa Clara attendees were Mike Gonzalez, Executive Director of Family and Health Strategies and Kelsey Bhatnagar, Director of Health and Wellness. They concluded their visit with a question and answer session with First 5 Solano staff and Nina Diaz, Vallejo First 5 Center Director.

Early Learning Center in Vallejo Update: First 5 Solano closed escrow on December 18th on the property known as the Early Learning Center in Vallejo. The Early Learning Center (ELC) Purchase Team which consists of First 5 Solano, Child Start, and Terra Realty Advisors (First 5 Solano's real-estate advisor), conducted a walk-through of the property on December 19th and found the property well maintained. At the January 9, 2024 Board of Supervisors Meeting, the Board approved transferring the property from Solano County to Child Start and approved the Funding and Construction Agreement between First 5 Solano and Child Start. The Operations agreement, approved in June of 2023, provides direction and information on the restricted deed for the Early Learning Center site.

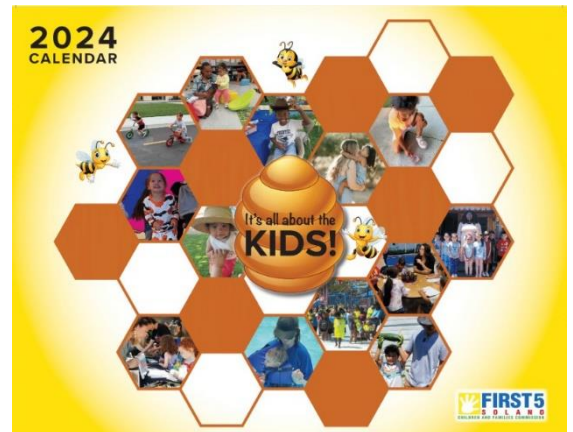
First 5 Solano contracted with Navalta Media to create an animated video highlighting the Early Learning Center. The video also highlights community resources and supports that will be offered by a variety of local partners, including Health and Social Services. The video will be debuted at the Early Learning Center's soft launch on January 26, 2024.

First 5 Solano Early Learning Center Press Release: on January 12, 2024, First 5 Solano issued a press release, *First 5 Solano Purchases Former Beverly Hills Elementary School Paving the Way for the First Multi-Agency Early Learning Center in California*. The press release detailed innovation and dedication of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, First 5 Solano Staff, Child Start, Solano County Board of Supervisors, and many additional community partners. The release included site information with services included, quotes from Supervisor Erin Hannigan, Supervisor Monica Brown, Michele Harris, Executive Director First 5 Solano, Juan Cisneros, Executive Director, Child Start. (See [Attachment A](#))

Daily Republic – Early Learning Center Article: On January 10, 2024, the Daily Republic published the article “County approves contract for early learning center renovations,” the transfer of the former Beverly Hills Elementary School proper in Vallejo to Child Start Inc. to be used as an Early learning Center, with quotes from both Supervisor Hannigan and Supervisor Brown. The article gave the estimate of the renovation, the funding contributions and that Child must operate the early learning center for at least 25 years. (See [Attachment B](#)).

Vallejo Times Herald article – Early Learning Center Article January 12, 2024 The Vallejo Times Herald published an article about the purchase of the Former Beverly Hills Elementary School as the First Multi-Agency Learning center in California. First 5 Solano was featured as the lead agency among other partnering collaboratives to include Child Start and Solano County Office of education. Supervisor Monica Brown and Supervisor Erin Hannigan were quoted in the article noting the Early Learning Center as a legacy project that will have a positive impact on children, families, and the community for many generations. (See [Attachment C](#)).

2024 First 5 Solano Calendar Distribution: The 2024 parent calendar production and distribution are complete. The calendar is community-focused, with pictures of Solano County children and families, an equity page, monthly themes, quick-tips for parents/caregivers, and fun activities. First 5 Solano has added back the recommended monthly book to each month and has distributed it upon request to community partners and the First 5 Center. Last year's children's coloring calendar was a success and will continue for another year. The activity calendar is coupled with the First 5 Solano informative calendar and comes with a 4 pack of crayons. As with each year, the Calendar has been distributed through the schools to every incoming TK & K student. The calendar theme, pictures and purpose also align with First 5 Solano’s newsletter and social media outreach.



Black Maternal and Infant Health Seminar: First 5 Solano staff, Kwiana Algere, Program Manager and Alicia Gutierrez, Health Education Specialist will be in attendance as a community partner to the *Healing Our Future: Addressing Black Maternal and Infant Health Seminar* on January 20, 2024. The Seminar is hosted by Supervisor Wanda Williams and the Black Women Organized for Political Action. The seminar will address the alarming rise in Black maternal and infant deaths in Solano County, to foster collaboration between community members, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and other stakeholders to collectively develop effective strategies and policy to promote cultural competence within healthcare systems to ensure that services are tailored to the diverse needs of the community. This event is a chance

to develop policy and build a stronger community. The First 5 Solano Executive Director is sponsoring diaper and wipe boxes for mothers in attendance.

Solano HEALs Centering Doula Program: In June 2023, the Commission approved an allocation of \$300,000 over 3 years to Solano County Health and Social Services & 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 to create a Doula program and train African American women to become Doulas to support African American mothers. In the first 6 months, the Team trained 10 Doulas, and had a waiting list of others recruited to the program. To build upon the momentum of the program, the 2nd cohort was trained, while the original 10 participants are engaged and ready to serve as a Doula. With 20 community Doulas, African American Mothers will have options when considering the supports they want for their prenatal/birthing experience.



First 5 Sonoma learned about Solano's Doula program at an external presentation from Dr. Shandi Fuller of Health and Social Services and Davon Crawford, Doula Program trainer. First 5 Sonoma reached out to First 5 Solano because they are interested in partnering to create a regional collaborative between Sonoma, Solano, Yolo, Napa, and Marin. The regional collaborative would help scale the model of Doula training and mentorship that the Solano team has developed. This could result in regional doula services to build a network of culturally responsive services and supports for African American pre/postnatal families.

Meet the Doula Night: Solano HEALs and Doula Doula will host their second Meet the Doula Night event. This is an event where newly trained Doulas from the Solano HEALs Centering Doula Program can interact with parents and provide pregnancy and postpartum support, as well as notify community agencies about their services.

Dr. Colleen Townsend will give a presentation regarding Partnership Health Plan and the medical benefit for parents. The presentation will include information on how to enroll in the recently introduced doula benefit. Meet the Doula Night will also feature an educational session that offers insights into the dedication to empowering laboring women. Meet the Doula Night will take place on Thursday, February 15th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Solano County Library, 5050 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA. If anyone is interested in attending Meet the Doula Night, use the link provided <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/meet-the-doula-night-tickets-784721100937>.

Community Responsive Mini Grant Update: The second application period for FY2023/24 was successful in awarding six grant requests totaling \$17,750, for community engagement events, professional development opportunities, materials & equipment, and time-limited programs.

First 5 Solano received 39 proposals from nonprofits, daycare providers, and other Solano County community organizations. A group of reviewers comprised of First 5 Solano staff evaluated a total of thirty-seven applications in Period 2. The review panel then gathered to decide on their final rankings and ratings, and six applications were recommended for funding to the Executive Director.

Over the recent years, a rise in applications submitted have indicated a need for additional funding for these largely grassroots grants/organizations. The funding for this Small Grant Fund is a total of \$45,000.

First 5 Solano releases these funds in 2 rounds per year. The first round we release a total of \$ 30,000 in grant funding. This is in comparison of the 2nd round of funding, in which we release \$15,000. First 5 Solano staff are discussing this internally and you may see a proposed increase in the budget for this fund, to provide greater opportunity for more community organizations to make a valuable impact to meet the needs of children and families in Solano County.

Community Responsive Mini Grant Awards of Funding
FY2023/24 Second Application Period

	Agency	Grant Type	Recommended Amount
1	Military Strong Foundation	Community Engagement To provide a resource fair event for pregnant and parenting military parents	\$500
2	Solano County Officer of Education	Community Engagement To provide the Early Educator of the Year Event	\$500
3	SANE SART	Professional Development To attend a Child Maltreatment Conference	\$3,000
4	Solano Land Trust	Materials and Equipment To purchase materials to create and install signs for a self-guided walk	\$4,930
5	Cave Language Academy	Time -Limited Program To provide an enrichment class through the "Little Eagles" program which teaches self-discipline and physical education to children.	\$3,820
6	Nexus Therapies LLC	Time -Limited Program To provide a series of monthly, two-hour parent training sessions for Spanish Speaking parents with Autistic children.	\$5,000

[Attachment A: First 5 Solano ELC Press Release](#)

[Attachment B: Daily Republic ELC Article](#)

[Attachment C: Vallejo Times Herald ELC Article](#)

County approves contract for early learning center renovations

Daily Republic Staff
Jan 10, 2024



FAIRFIELD — The Solano County supervisors on Tuesday transferred the former Beverly Hills Elementary School property in Vallejo to Child Start Inc. to be used as an early learning center.

Supervisor Erin Hannigan called it a "proud moment" in the county's history of supporting children 5 and younger, and Supervisor Monica Brown noted the need for such centers in the county.

"Early education is what the future of society rests on," Brown said.

The board first designated the property – purchased by the First 5 Solano Commission from the Vallejo City Unified School District for \$2.8 million – as surplus, then approved a Funding and Construction Agreement with Child Start to renovate the facility.

The cost of the renovation is estimated at \$13 million, with \$9.58 million already part of the fiscal year 2023-24 First 5 Solano budget. The funding includes \$6 million from two state sources; \$1.87 million from county American Rescue Plan Act funds; \$1.07 million from the First 5 Solano Commission; \$610,000 from Vallejo; and \$30,000 from the county Office of Education.

Child Start must operate the early learning center for at least 25 years, and provide space for the two Head Start classrooms currently located at the county's Health & Social Services campus on Virginia Street

In other action, the board:

- Approved the Notice of Completion for the Clay Bank Detention Center Security Fence and Easement Improvement. The total budget was \$986,000, of which \$628,023 was direct construction costs. The contractor was Pro Builders of Orangevale. The funds come from the Capital Renewal Reserve and Criminal Justice Temporary Construction Fund.
- Approved the Notice of Completion for the Nut Tree Airport Elevator Upgrade Project. The total budget was \$220,000, of which \$94,973 was direct construction costs. The contractor was Dream Ride Elevator of Benicia. A fund balance of \$82,043 to the Airport Specialty Projects fund.
- Approved a five-year lease agreement with New Cingular Wireless, doing business as AT&T Wireless, to install a wireless telecommunications antenna and associated equipment on the rooftop of the county administration building, 675 Texas St. The initial rent is \$3,000 a month with 3% annual interest increases. It includes extension options.
- Approved a \$210,00 contract amendment with Behavioral Health Industry News, doing business as Open Minds, for a total contract of \$280,000, to provide consultation and technical assistance with the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal behavioral health initiative through June 30, 2025.
- Approved a \$150,000 contract with Fairfield Police Activities League to provide after-school and evening activities suited for creating a safe and stable environment for youth from Jan. 15 through Jan. 14, 2027.
- Approved a \$150,000 contract with Leaven Kids Inc. to provide early identification, intervention and prevention services in under-resourced neighborhoods from Jan. 15 through Jan. 14, 2027.

LOCAL NEWS

First 5 Solano announces construction date for learning center

Site at Coronel Avenue to begin in March, set to open by June 2026



The Vallejo Unified School District Board of Education unanimously approved the sale of the Beverly Hills Elementary School property to the Greater Vallejo Recreation District. (Chris Riley/Times-Herald)



Six months after First 5 Solano announced its purchase of the former Beverly Hills Elementary School on Coronel Avenue, construction is scheduled to begin in March to create the first Multi-Agency Early Learning Center in California.

The center, slated to be completed in June 2026, will be a hub for early learning that will provide a variety of early care and education opportunities for infants through preschoolers and families of all income levels, while creating economic opportunities for providers and filling a critical need in the county.

“This is a proud moment for Solano County and reflective of our commitment to supporting children 5 and younger,” said Solano County Supervisor Erin Hannigan in a news release. “I applaud First 5 Solano for envisioning the Vallejo Early Learning Center, and all the community partners who came together to help make it a reality. This will impact the lives of children and families for generations.”

Supervisor Monica Brown was also pleased with the news.

“The Vallejo Early Learning Center is a critical need in Solano County,” said Brown. “Early education is what the future of society rests on.”

The site was purchased by First 5 from the Vallejo School District for \$2.8 million. The agreement in July authorized the organization Child Start to operate the Early Learning Center for a minimum of 25 years, providing expanded child care and early learning opportunities in Vallejo, supporting the goal that children enter school ready to learn.

Meanwhile, GVRD said in July that it had also secured a new lease agreement with the Vallejo City Unified School District to manage the shuttered gym and fields at Franklin Middle School. The district will use Measure K funds, general funds and program fees to maintain the facilities and plan new recreation programming at the site. It was announced earlier this week that the official opening of a new sports gym at that site will have its grand opening on Friday, Jan. 19.

According to news release on Friday morning, the ELC will provide over 200 early learning and childcare slots. The community will be at the core of this new center, which will house 18 classrooms occupied by up to five early care and education providers. The classrooms will be operated by up to five different Early Learning and Childcare Provider agencies. These agencies will work together with the facility operator, Child Start, Inc., and will function as a cohesive early learning facility, where children and families can participate in school events and be part of a support system of resources provided at the Center.

The innovative hub will serve as a family- and community-centered facility, aimed at serving not only children, but their families for long-term stability and success.

“The Vallejo Early Learning Center will be a place where caring for young children means caring for the whole family,” says Michele Harris, Executive Director of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission. “This center is an investment in the health and well-being of our children, their families, and our communities, and I am grateful for the support of the County and our partners. This is a center that will transform the lives of children and families for generations to come, and in doing so, transform our communities. In every way, this is a legacy project that we can all be proud of.”

According to the news release, Child Start, Inc. will function as the owner of the facility and operate multiple classrooms. The organization will lease the remaining classrooms to early education providers. All eligible children served by Child Start will be enrolled in the high-quality Head Start Program at no cost.

“Child Start is honored to partner with First 5 Solano to provide quality early care, education, and social services to some of the County’s most under-resourced children and families,” says Juan Cisneros, Executive Director of Child Start Inc in the same news release. “Child Start’s goal as both the owner and operator of the ELC is to ensure that, across all childcare options, children leave the ELC excited about and prepared for school and families increase their capacity to support their children



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 12, 2024

First 5 Solano Purchases Former Beverly Hills Elementary School Paving the Way for the First Multi-Agency Early Learning Center in California

VALLEJO – [First 5 Solano](#) announces that it has purchased the former Beverly Hills Elementary School, located at 1450 Coronel Ave., Vallejo, Calif., clearing the way for construction of the First Multi-Agency Early Learning Center in California. The center, slated to be completed in June 2026, will be a hub for early learning that will provide a variety of early care and education opportunities for infants through preschoolers and families of all income levels, while creating economic opportunities for providers and filling a critical need in the county.

“This is a proud moment for Solano County and reflective of our commitment to supporting children 5 and younger,” said Supervisor Erin Hannigan. “I applaud First 5 Solano for envisioning the Vallejo Early Learning Center, and all the community partners who came together to help make it a reality. This will impact the lives of children and families for generations.”

“The Vallejo Early Learning Center is a critical need in Solano County,” said Supervisor Monica Brown. “Early education is what the future of society rests on.”

The ELC will provide over 200 early learning and childcare slots. The community will be at the core of this new center, which will house 18 classrooms occupied by up to five early care and education providers. The classrooms will be operated by up to 5 different Early Learning & Childcare Provider agencies. These agencies will work together with the facility operator, Child Start, Inc., and will function as a cohesive early learning facility, where children and families can participate in school events and be part of a support system of resources provided at the Center.

The innovative hub will serve as a family- and community-centered facility, aimed at serving not only children, but their families for long-term stability and success.

The Center will provide a wide range of services for families and the community, including:

- Connection to public assistance, health and social services programs;
- Social services, including CalWORKS and CalFRESH support;
- Community food pantry, designed as a bodega;
- Basic needs support for families;
- Parent education, and more

“The Vallejo Early Learning Center will be a place where caring for young children means caring for the whole family,” says Michele Harris, Executive Director of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission. “This center is an investment in the health and well-being of our children, their families, and our communities, and I am grateful for the support of the County and our partners. This is a center that will transform the lives of children and families for generations to come, and in doing so, transform our communities. In every way, this is a legacy project that we can all be proud of.”

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Renovations to the facility will begin in March.

For more information about the Vallejo Early Learning Center, contact Michele Harris at mdharris@solanocounty.com.

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About First 5 Solano

First 5 Solano funds programs and services to support Solano County’s youngest children (0-5) and their families while strengthening early childhood systems to support future generations. As 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.