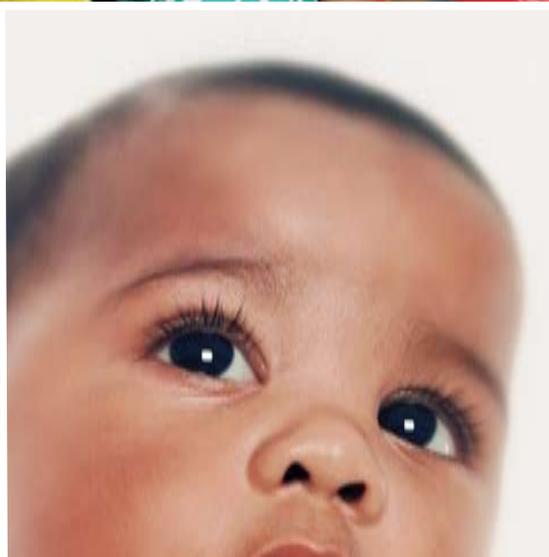


2007

ANNUAL REPORT



Children are
our bottom line

About First 5 Solano

OUR VISION

All Solano County children are loved, healthy, confident, eager to learn, nurtured by their families, caregivers, and the community, and enter school ready to learn.

OUR MISSION

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission creates and fosters programs and partnerships with community entities to promote, support and improve the lives of young children, their families and their communities.

OUR HISTORY

In 1998 California voters approved landmark legislation aimed at improving the lives of young children with the passage of “Proposition 10,” which instituted a tobacco tax to fund enhanced early childhood development services. In 1999, the Solano County Board of Supervisors implemented Proposition 10 at the local level by establishing the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission.

First 5 Solano is responsible for adopting a Strategic Plan for children 0-5 and their families that is based on community input and community needs. First 5 funds are deployed across the spectrum of children’s healthy development in accordance with this Strategic Plan. First 5 Solano invests over \$4 million each year in the form of grants to community partners that seek to improve the health, well-being, safety and development of Solano County’s children 0-5, their families and their providers. In addition, last year First 5 and its grantees used First 5 Solano funds to bring in an additional \$4 million for young children’s services.

Note that the increase in tobacco taxes generated by Prop 10 has the effect of reducing the number of people who smoke. Therefore the funds available to First 5 will decline over time. This was part of the design of Proposition 10; however, it means the Commission must seek the maximum benefit for children in its funding choices. The Commission’s investments in system change help ensure that the benefits to young children will continue to accrue long after the funding is gone. Last but not least, the Commission holds itself and its grantees highly accountable for results — services, collaboratives and other supports that deliver measurable improvements for young children and their families.



COMMISSIONERS

Dee Alarcón	At-Large
Dan Ayala	District 5/Supervisor Mike Reagan
Stephan Betz	Health and Social Services Department
Sheryl Fairchild	District 3/Supervisor Jim Spering
Debbie Gossell	District 4/Supervisor John Vasquez
Barbara Kondylis	Board of Supervisors
Dr. Elaine Norinsky	District 1/Supervisor Barbara Kondylis
Norma Thigpen	Health and Social Services Department
Dr. Sharon Tucker	District 2/Supervisor John Silva

STAFF

Christina Arrostituto	Executive Director
Michele Harris	Deputy Director
Venis Jones Boyd	Manager, Family Support
Lynn Guest	Manager, School Readiness
Norma Lisenko	Manager, Community Engagement
Chris Shipman	Manager, Health and Well-Being
Heather Devaney	Administrative Secretary
Minda Krueger	Office Assistant II

First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
2300 Boynton Avenue, Suite 204
Fairfield, CA 94533
Phone: (707) 784-1332
www.first5solano.org

A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Community Members,

On behalf of First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, I am pleased to present the 2008 First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission Calendar, along with our Annual Report to the Community. The 2008 Calendar includes parenting tips, dates of upcoming events for young children and their families, contact information for local children's organizations serving families and other useful information for families. The Annual Report summarizes the Commission's many accomplishments over 2006-2007.



Every child needs and deserves a healthy start and the supports to grow and develop to his or her optimum potential for success in school and in life. In 2006-2007, First 5 Solano invested over \$4.3 million in critical services for children 0-5, their families and caregivers. In addition, First 5 funds brought in an additional \$4 million for Solano's young children. We are proud that our vital programs and services reached 21,000 children ages 0 to 5, their families and providers in 2006-2007.

Over the past two years the Commission has increasingly targeted its investments towards initiatives and collaboratives that not only provide services but also expand and improve the overall early childhood system. First 5 Solano and its partners have established initiatives for children's health, integrated family support, school readiness, early childhood mental health, quality child care and prenatal services. The Commission's continued support of these and other system change efforts are designed to maximize funding and generate measurable improvements in the lives of young children and their families.

Children are our most precious resource. We know that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their children's growth has a meaningful impact throughout life. The health, safety, well-being and optimum development of our young children is at the heart of all the work supported by First 5 Solano and our partners. Every person in Solano County has a stake in ensuring that our children have the supports they need to take their place as the next generation of workers, community members and leaders.

If you are a parent or provider of care for young children, we encourage you to take advantage of the wide variety of services and supports that help make our babies, toddlers and preschoolers ready for success in school and in life. Remember that at First 5 Solano, children are our bottom line!

Sincerely yours,

Christina Arrostuto
Executive Director





PRIORITY 1: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

BabyFirst Solano

BabyFirst Solano is a Countywide initiative which supports healthy pregnancies and births among African-American women, pregnant teens, and women at risk of substance use.

INITIATIVE GOALS

Mothers Have Healthy Pregnancies

- Specific outreach efforts to hard-to-reach pregnant women
- Coordinated, comprehensive services to pregnant and parenting teens and women
- Training and assistance to providers to increase their competence in reaching specific populations
- Mentoring and peer support to new mothers
- Substance abuse prevention and treatment
- Health education and information

Newborns Are Healthy

- Linking mothers and children with health insurance
- Connecting mothers and children with a primary care provider
- Parent education classes
- Breastfeeding training and support
- Developmental screenings and referrals

INITIATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided numerous outreach and education efforts throughout the county at high schools, community events and fairs reaching hundreds of people
- Conducted child education classes in both English and Spanish
- 90% of African American women and 96% of teens served entered prenatal care in the first or second trimester
- Hosted Annual Teen Parent Graduation event attended by 16 graduates, 25 community

partners and representatives of numerous elected officials

- 100% of babies born to teen mothers served have a medical home
- 54 partners of pregnant or parenting teens and women served by Black Infant Health attended Role of Men classes

Programs and Funding for 2006-2007

• It's About My Baby – California Hispanic Commission	\$147,104
• Nubian Mentoring Program – Everlasting Hope Ministries	\$67,180
• Solano County Health & Social Services	\$980,015
•Planned Parenthood	
•Youth and Family Services	
•Prenatal Care Guidance Teen Program	
•ABC Prenatal Program	
•Black Infant Health	
•Children's Nurturing Program	
•North Bay Medical Center	
•California Hispanic Commission	
•La Clinica de la Raza	
•Partnership Health Plan of California	

Total 2006-2007 Initiative Funding:

\$1,194,299

SNAPSHOT

Nicole entered a BabyFirst Solano teen program in her second trimester. She was not attending school and was difficult to locate at times. She had a lot going on in her life besides her pregnancy, including dealing with a drug-addicted parent. With support and ongoing contact from her case manager, Nicole began to return to school. She gave birth to a healthy baby. She takes her child to all of her well-baby visits, is up-to-date on immunizations, completed the Nurturing Parenting workshops, and continues to attend school. She will graduate next year. With the support of BabyFirst Solano, Nicole has lifted herself up and come a long way.

PRIORITY 1: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Children's Health

EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

The Early Childhood Mental Health Initiative increases parent-child interaction and bonding, improves parenting skills, and connects families to other community resources.

INITIATIVE GOALS

Children Receive Appropriate Health Services

- Mental health services to children 0-5 and their families
- Home-based or center-based, early and sequential screening, referrals and direct services for mental health, developmental, behavioral, and health concerns to newborns, infants, and toddlers

Children Live in Healthy Environments

- Parent education classes
- Connecting parents to community resources

INITIATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Connected 461 infants/children with a primary care provider for ongoing care
- Succeeded in improving the parenting skills, attitudes, and beliefs of 49 families who completed a 12-week parenting session
- 235 children were identified as having special needs significant enough to require follow-up services through Early Childhood Mental Health screenings

Programs and Funding for 2006-2007

• FamiliesFirst Inc.	\$258,910
• Children's Nurturing Project – Welcome Baby	\$99,564
• Children's Nurturing Project – Nurturing Parenting Program	\$46,609
• Solano County Health and Social Services – Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment	\$39,986

Total 2006-2007 Initiative Funding: \$445,069

SNAPSHOT

One four-year-old boy is just now beginning to show more attachment behaviors toward his grandmother who is raising him. He was abandoned by his biological mother and he had a tendency to be overly independent, relying on no one for help but himself. He is starting to ask for assistance in the area of play and reading books — a very good beginning!

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE

The Children's Health Initiative connects children to health insurance and utilizes schools as "gateways" to health insurance.

INITIATIVE GOALS

Children Have Comprehensive Health Insurance

- Assists families with uninsured children ages 0-5 to successfully apply for subsidized health insurance and maintain health coverage

INITIATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 736 children ages 0-5 were enrolled in health insurance
- 41 schools in Solano County have 100% of children insured
- 97% of all Solano children are insured countywide

Programs and Funding for 2006-2007

• Solano Coalition for Better Health - Solano Kids Insurance Program (SKIP)	\$236,953
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Total 2006-2007 Initiative Funding: \$236,953

SNAPSHOT

A mom contacted SKIP in tears. Her infant had not been to see a doctor for well-baby care because she was not eligible for Healthy Families health insurance. Staff got the baby an appointment immediately at the county clinic for a well-baby visit, and helped the mother complete an application for health coverage through Kaiser. The baby was approved and now has health insurance.



PRIORITY 2: EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

School Readiness

SCHOOL READINESS INITIATIVE

The School Readiness Initiative helps to get children ready for school, schools ready for children and promotes parents as their child's first and best teacher.

INITIATIVE GOALS

Families Are Ready for School

Connecting Families to Resources

- Quality childcare referrals
- Referrals to other community resources
- Transportation vouchers
- Subsidized preschool slots

Building Knowledge of Child Development

- Parent education workshops
- Literacy packets
- School readiness packets

Children Are Ready for School

- Pre-K "Academies" for children without prior preschool experience
- Vision, hearing, and dental screenings
- Immunization, speech, and language assessments

Schools and Communities Are Ready for Children and Families

- "Safe from the Start" neighborhood forums
- Community Kindergarten Carnival
- Articulation meetings with kindergarten and preschool teachers

INITIATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Prepared 242 children for Kindergarten through Pre-K "Academies"
- Conducted effective outreach to parents about early kindergarten enrollment — 80% of kindergarteners were enrolled during the few months before school started, up from 75% in 2005-2006

- Improved dental health and increased awareness of dental hygiene through screenings and services provided to hundreds of students by the Toothmobile
- Encouraged parent engagement activities— 74% of parents of entering kindergartners either toured the school or visited a classroom prior to their child's entry into kindergarten
- Held 8 trainings for child care providers throughout the county on early childhood education
- Provided technical assistance on program expansion to 36 county child care providers

Programs and Funding for 2006-2007

• Dixon Unified School District— Silveyville Primary School	\$172,828
• Vacaville Unified School District— Markham Elementary School	\$200,211
• Vallejo City Unified School District— Loma Vista Elementary School	\$227,934
• Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District— Anna Kyle Elementary School	\$171,561

Total 2006-2007 Initiative Funding: \$772,534

SNAPSHOT

"Walk to School was a highly successful community event. We had a very good turnout by parents and children in our community. [They] received a wealth of knowledge on childhood obesity, and fun ideas for physical activity for children and parents. Free cookbooks with healthful cooking recipes were also handed out."

- School Readiness Grantee

PRIORITY 2: EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Quality Child Care Initiative

QUALITY CHILD CARE INITIATIVE

The Quality Child Care Initiative supports the continued training and education of child care providers, and works toward a streamlined process for financing, constructing, and developing child care facilities in Solano County.

INITIATIVE GOALS

Families Have Access to High Quality Child Care

- Trainings and stipends to child care providers as an incentive to continue to advance in the field of early childhood education
- Streamlined process for the financing, construction, and development of child care facilities in Solano County

INITIATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Delivered 8 trainings focused on the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) to 178 Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) participants and 95 license-exempt providers
- 204 stipends were issued to child care providers totalling \$345,514
- The “Constructing Connection” project created 25 new child care slots
- Provided technical assistance to 36 providers interested in expanding their services

Programs and Funding for 2006-2007

• Children’s Network – CARES	\$626,590
• ABCD Constructing Connections	\$47,339
• Child Start, Inc. – Head Start	\$165,111

Total 2006-2007 Initiative Funding: \$839,040



In both 2005 and 2007 Solano County earned the honor of being chosen as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People by America’s Promise – the Alliance for Youth. The 100 Best Communities competition honors communities across America for their commitment to provide healthy, safe and caring environments for young people. Solano County is one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People because of the caring community and collaboration among schools, cities, businesses and county agencies to support our children and youth. Many of First 5 Solano’s funded programs and services, including BabyFirst Solano and the Integrated Family Support Initiative, were highlighted in the winning 100 Best Communities applications.

SNAPSHOT

Child care is critical to continued economic growth. High quality child care prepares children for school and allows parents to work without undue worry about the safety of their children. Sixteen large employers in Solano County have indicated interest in further exploring development of new child care resources to meet employee needs.

PRIORITY 3: FAMILY SUPPORT AND EDUCATION

Integrated Family Support Initiative (IFSI)

INTEGRATED FAMILY SUPPORT INITIATIVE

The Integrated Family Support Initiative connects families to a coordinated system of support through Family Resource Centers across Solano County.

INITIATIVE GOALS

Families Access Support Systems and Communities Resources

- Eight Family Resource Centers (FRCs) connect families with parent education, developmental screenings, child care referrals, home visits, referrals to additional resources
- FRCs are located in neighborhoods throughout the county
- Classes and support groups are offered every month across Solano County
- Parenting Database serves as an online source of information about available community resources

FUNDED INITIATIVE PARTNERS

Families Access Support Systems and Communities Resources

• Children's Network of Solano County	\$139,328
• City of Benicia Police Department – Benicia FRC	\$28,050
• Dixon Family Services – Dixon FRC	\$39,661
• Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District – Fairfield and Suisun FRCs	\$130,483
• Rio Vista CARE – Rio Vista FRC	\$43,766
• Vacaville Police Department – Vacaville FRC	\$28,080
• Fighting Back Partnership – North Vallejo and Sereno Village FRCs	\$128,000
• Child Haven – Rio Vista Home Visitor	\$17,000
• Interfaith Council of Solano County – Heather House Homeless Shelter	\$13,805
• Department of Health and Social Services – Child Protective Services worker and Public Health Nurse	\$150,000
• California Hispanic Commission – Substance Abuse Specialist	\$72,466
• Youth and Family Services – Substance Abuse Specialist	\$75,000
Total 2006-2007 Initiative Funding	\$865,639

INITIATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The FRCs served 2,841 families and 2,980 children 5 and under in the 2006-2007 year
- Over 500 families served by IFSI partners increased their knowledge of community resources
- Thirteen families served by Heather House Homeless Shelter established and remained permanent housing
- FRC staff made 4,140 home visits to high-risk families
- IFSI partners assisted 401 families to move toward stability on the Family Development Matrix
- Over 7,000 unique users accessed the Parenting Database in the fiscal year

SNAPSHOT

FRC staff assisted a mother of three young children to make restitution for old debts so that she could move into affordable housing. The mother applied for work, but was told she had to be a fluent English-speaker. FRC staff successfully advocated on her behalf, and she got the job. She is now working full time and attending English classes at the adult high school.

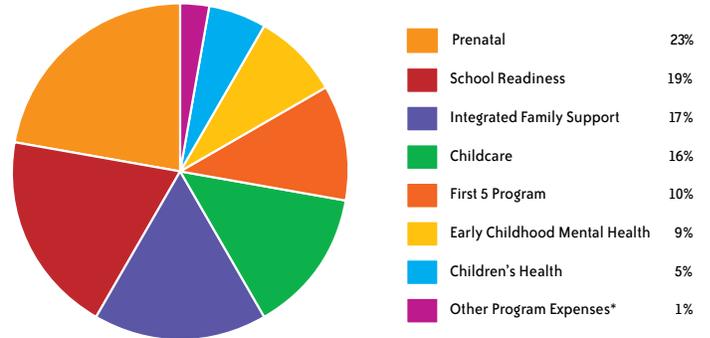
FIRST 5 SOLANO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION, 2006-2007

Beginning Fund Balance 7/1/2006	19,876,278
Revenues	
Prop 10 Tobacco Tax	4,597,155
Prop 10 School Readiness	126,893
Prop 10 CARES	130,000
Prop 10 Health Access	11,841
Interest Revenue	1,110,266
Other Revenue	88,483
Total Revenues	6,064,638
Expenditures	
Program Expenditures	5,129,283
Administrative Expenditures	501,872
Evaluation Expenditures	184,100
Total Expenditures	5,815,255
Other Financing Sources	30,756
Ending Fund Balance 6/30/2007*	20,094,905

*Fund Balance includes the Commission's Operating and Sustaining Reserve accounts. In 2006-2007, First 5 Solano grantees served 9,668 children, 9,077 parents/legal guardians, and 2,411 providers and others in Solano County.

2006-2007 FUNDING BY INITIATIVE

FY2006/2007 FUNDING BY INITIATIVE

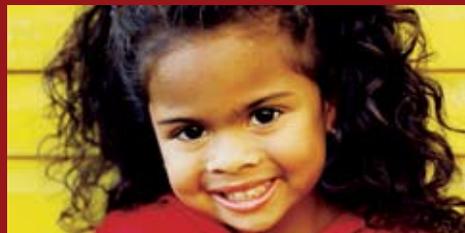


*Other Program Expenses include community engagement/strengthening and co-sponsorship of conferences and grantwriting support.

Over the next five years, First 5 Solano will oversee \$21 million in grant investments to generate tangible results for children and families, bring in additional funds to Solano County, and promote systems change. First 5 Solano will continue to fund in the six areas profiled in this report at least through 2012: prenatal, children's health, early childhood mental health, quality child care, school readiness, and family support.

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2007-2012 Totals
Total Base Program Investment	4,000,000	4,120,000	4,243,600	4,370,900	4,502,000	21,236,500
Prenatal Initiative	1,432,000	1,474,960	1,519,209	1,564,785	1,611,729	7,602,683
Children's Health Initiative	230,000	236,900	244,007	251,327	258,867	1,221,101
Early Childhood Mental Health	555,000	571,650	588,800	606,463	624,657	2,946,570
Quality Child Care Initiative	329,000	338,870	349,036	359,507	370,292	1,746,705
School Readiness Initiative	493,000	507,790	523,024	538,714	554,876	2,617,404
Family Support Initiative	911,000	938,330	966,480	995,474	1,025,339	4,836,623
Total Committed County Commission	3,950,000	4,068,500	4,190,555	4,316,272	4,445,760	20,971,087
Discretionary	50,000	51,500	53,045	54,628	56,240	265,413
State Match						
Children's Health Initiative	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	200,000
School Readiness	376,000	376,000	376,000	376,000	376,000	1,880,000
Total State Match Addition	416,000	416,000	416,000	416,000	416,000	2,080,000
Total Planned Program Investment	4,416,000	4,536,000	4,659,600	4,786,900	4,918,000	23,316,500





SYSTEMS CHANGE AND COLLABORATION

First 5 Solano improves service quality and streamlines service delivery through its systems change activities and support of collaboration among funded programs.

SYSTEMS CHANGE

- First 5 Solano participates in many local planning and governance entities, including the Solano Children's Alliance, the Local Planning Council, and the Family Child Care Association
- Executive Director participated in national "Summit on America's Children" in Washington DC
- First 5 Association/CA Endowment statewide Early Childhood Mental Health strategic planning and Solano EMCH Collaborative were launched
- Preschool for All Advisory Group focused on expanding child care spaces and on linkages to higher education to expand workforce quality
- Bay Area First 5 Policy Agenda was developed

COLLABORATION

- Participated in successful applications for the Cleo Gordon Family Resource Center (Cowell Foundation grant) and the Elsa Widenmann Healthy Start/Health Center sites

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Over 4,000 Kits for New Parents were distributed; new Kit for New Parents was launched
- 2007 "Community Matters" Resources Brochure was created and distributed
- April Children's Month was celebrated with resolutions, neighborhood events
- "All About the Kids" Legislative Day educated and informed state electeds
- Community Engagement Committee was established

CAPACITY-BUILDING

- First Annual Results Fair was held and Community Impact Report issued
- Grantee Training and Technical Assistance meetings covered topics of interest to support grantee performance: Solano County Foundation Grants Directory; Mandatory Child Abuse Reporter Training; Co-hosted full-day "Positive Parenting" workshop
- Co-Sponsored the 2007 "Strengthening Partnerships to Reduce Disparities in Health Status" Conference
- Endorsed national "AmeriCorps Week"

INFRASTRUCTURE

- 2007 First 5 Solano Strategic Plan Update was developed and adopted; Community Input Report issued
- FY 2007-2012 Program Investment Plan was approved and implemented
- FY 2007-2012 Funding Cycle was launched with over 35 new or extended contracts for community and professional services
- Grantee Contract Manual was developed and reviewed with all grantees
- Issued the second annual First 5 Solano Evaluation Report

AWARDS WON

- 100 Best Communities for Youth (2005 & 2007)
- BabyFirst Challenge Award (CSAC)
- First 5 Solano "Leveraged Funds" Merit Award (CSAC)



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

HEALTHY BABIES, TODDLERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Many other community resources are available. Visit The Children's Network Web site at www.childnet.org for a calendar of children's events in Solano County or to use their free, searchable database of parenting programs and community resources.

Solano Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC)

Protects children by informing, training and advising the community about keeping children from harm.
707.421.7229 · www.childnet.org

North Bay Regional Center

Coordinates and purchases services for persons with developmental disabilities and their families or infants and toddlers at risk for developmental disabilities.
707.256.1100 · www.nbrc.net

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

Provides free groceries for low-income families and children at locations throughout Contra Costa and Solano counties.
707.421.9777 · www.foodbankccs.org

Solano County Health and Social Services

Promotes cost effective services that safeguard the physical, emotional and social well-being of the people in Solano County.
707.784.8400 · www.solanocounty.com

SKIP, "Solano Kids Insurance Program"

Links uninsured kids with health care coverage
800.978.7547 · www.skip.solanocoalition.org

CHILDCARE AND GETTING CHILDREN READY FOR SCHOOL

Solano Family and Children's Services

Your child care connection.
707.863.3950 · www.solanosfcs.org

Child Start (Head Start)

Child and family services agency serving Napa and Solano counties; provides the Head Start program.
866.573.4274 or 707.252.8931 · www.childstartinc.org

Solano County Office of Education – SCOE

Programs include juvenile and community schools, regional occupational programs, school to career, special education, transition partnership, special education regional occupational programs.
707.399.4400 · www.solanocoe.net

Solano Child Care Planning Council

Works to improve the accessibility, affordability and quality of child care in Solano County.
707.421.7229 · www.childnet.org

Solano County Libraries

Unlock the doors to your mind!
Contact your local branch or visit www.solanolibrary.com

SOLANO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK

Benicia Family Resource Center
707.746.4352 · www.ci.benicia.ca.us

Dixon Family Services
707.678.0442 · www.dixonfamilyservices.org

Fairfield Family Resource Center
707.421.3224

Greater Vallejo Fighting Back Partnership and Family Resource Center
707.648.5230 · www.fight-back.org

North Vallejo Fighting Back Partnership and Family Resource Center
707.553.7346 · www.fight-back.org

Rio Vista CARE Family Resource Center
707.374.5243

Sereno Village Fighting Back Partnership and Family Resource Center
707.642.6999 · www.fight-back.org

Suisun Family Resource Center
707.421.4398

Vacaville FIRST Office/Family Resource Center
707.469.6600

HELPING PARENTS AND FAMILIES THRIVE

The Children's Network of Solano

A united voice for the children of Solano County.
707.421.7229 · www.childnet.org

Office of Family Violence Prevention

Aims to further the success of family violence prevention and intervention efforts in Solano County.
707.784.7789 · www.solanocounty.com

SafeQuest Solano Inc.

Advocates for and supports victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
866.487.7233 · www.safequestsolano.com

HELP AVAILABLE 24-HOURS A DAY

Provides parent education, home visiting programs, connections to health care, housing, food, counseling and other services

- Child abuse and neglect: 800.544.8696
- Domestic violence and sexual assault services and counseling: 866-4-**UR-SAFE** (866.487.7233)
- Emergency mental health/suicide prevention crisis line: 707.428.1131