

POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
December 9, 2024 10:00 am to 11:30 am
3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA 94590

CALL TO ORDER

I. Introductions, Public Comment, Commissioner Comment

II. Consent Calendar

Action

- A. Approve the December 9, 2024 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the [July 22, 2024 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes](#)
- C. Receive the [Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report](#)

III. Early Learning Center Allocation

Action

Motion: Consider a recommendation to allocate \$2,600,000 to Child Start from the Commission's Reserve Fund to complete the renovation of the [Early Learning Center](#), located at 1450 Coronel Ave, Vallejo, CA 94590
Michele Harris, Executive Director

IV. Annual Review of Commission Policies

Action

Motion: Consider a recommendation to amend the [Small Grants policy](#) to address appropriate use of the fund and confirm the funding range
Toya Adams, Program Manager

V. 2025 Legislative Platform

Action

Motion: Consider recommending approval of the [2025 Legislative Platform](#)
Toya Adams, Program Manager

VI. 2024 Strategic Plan Implementation Updates

information/ Discussion

Receive updates on the following:
A. Program Update
B. Community Engagement Update
C. Systems Change Update
All staff

VII. First 5 Solano Staffing and Finance Update

Information

Receive a report on First 5 Solano staffing and financials
Denise Winters, Deputy Director

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

Information

The Policy and Oversight Committee is scheduled to meet next on Monday, February 24, 2025, 10:00 am to 11:30 am, at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA. Future agenda items include Early Learning Center update, Fairfield First 5 Center update, Strategic Plan Implementation updates, and Staffing and Finance.

ADJOURN

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

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

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you require a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, please call (707) 784-1332 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. Non-confidential materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Commission are available for public inspection at the First 5 Solano business office, 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA, 94590 during normal business hours.

Date: December 3, 2024

TO: Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Policy and Oversight Committee (POC) Chair
Neely McElroy and Tyffany Wanberg, POC Members

FROM: Toya Adams, Committee Staff /Program Manager

SUBJ: **Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Staff Report**

Agenda Item II: Consent Calendar

- A. Approve the December 9, 2024 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the July 22, 2024 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
- C. Receive the Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report

Agenda Item III: Early Learning Center Allocation

- A. Motion: Consider a recommendation to allocate \$2,600,000 to Child Start from the Commission’s Reserve Fund to complete the renovation of the Early Learning Center, located at 1450 Coronel Ave, Vallejo, CA 94590

The ELC Leadership Team which consists of First 5 Solano; Child Start; and Solano County Office of Education have been navigating a path toward the renovation of the school to successfully open in August of 2025 with 2 providers onsite to test and refine school operations for full launch in summer 2026. Through the review and budget exercises conducted by the Project Management team, there were unaccounted costs in the initial assessment from July 2022, including costs associated with meeting California Child Care Licensing and City of Vallejo requirements.

Early Learning Center Proper	Amount
Current Budget:	14,339,109
Construction	14,013,561
Contingencies	1,790,169
Allowances	678,466
Value Engineering	-430,000
Soft Costs	901,128
Total Expenditures	16,953,324
Gap in Funds	2,614,215

As the committee may recall, the Commission’s Program Investment Plan identified Reserve Funds to be spent during this funding cycle. The 2 priorities for funding were support of the Early Learning Center and support of equity-based strategies. Staff have been working closely with the leaders at Child Start to finalize the costs associated with full launch of the ELC. There are approximately \$3,450,000 identified as additional costs for items not accounted for, including additional city requirements, increased costs for child care licensing requirements, and increased costs from a 3-year stale bid. Attachment C to this report is the Early Learning Funding Request from Child Start, Inc.

Staff have reviewed carefully the budgetary gap and recommend that the Commission allocate \$2,600,000 of this gap via its Reserve Fund. The remainder of the gap staff are recommending that Child Start seek this funding from its federal office.

Agenda Item IV: Annual Review of Commission Policies

- B. Motion: Consider a recommendation to amend the Small Grants policy to address appropriate use of the fund and confirm the funding range

The First 5 Solano Commission staff review the Commission's policies annually and make recommendations for edits as appropriate. The annual review of those Policies was completed for FY2024/25. First 5 staff identified the "Community Responsive Mini Grants" policy, previously referred to as the "Small Grants" policy as needing revision to reflect the current use. Edits are being recommended to provide greater clarity on the purpose and use of this grant opportunity. The title was updated to "Community Responsive Mini Grants" to align with public notices for the funding and better reflect its intent and to provide guidance on proper use of funding. The track change version and clean version are attached for the Committee's reference and review.

The redlined draft and final draft of the First 5 Solano Mini Grants Policy are attached to this report as Attachment D. Staff are requesting the Committee consider recommending that the revised policy be approved by the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission.

Of the Commission's 15 distinct policies reviewed, this was the only policy identified for recommended revision. The next review of the Commission's policies is scheduled for FY2025/26.

Agenda Item V: 2025 Legislative Platform

- C. Motion: Consider recommending approval of the 2025 Legislative Platform

Staff has conducted a review of the Commission's legislative platform. As part of this process, staff reviewed the Solano County Federal and State 2025 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 2025 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 2024 legislative platform priorities to ensure there is alignment with the First 5 California and First 5 Association priorities. The review of 2024 policy priorities found a strong statewide effort to center equity across First 5 portfolios. Staff concluded that no revisions are necessary at this time, as the current priorities already align with the goal of advancing sustainable changes that support equity and inclusion.

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission Legislative Platform outlines the Commission's priorities, providing a unified message that guides advocacy efforts, informs policymakers, and fosters strategic alliances.

The redlined draft and final draft of the First 5 Solano 2025 Legislative Platform are attached to this report as Attachment E. Staff are requesting the Committee consider recommending that the 2025 Legislative Platform be approved by the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission.

Agenda Item VI: 2024 Strategic Plan Implementation Updates

A. Program Updates

First 5 Solano staff meet with grantees regularly to ensure performance measures are being met for contracts funded by the Commission. For the first quarter, the majority of grantees are on target to

meet deliverables as outlined in each contract scope of work. Staff will continue meeting with grantees to ensure that outcomes are met by year end.

B. Community Engagement Update

Leadership Vallejo Explores Vision of Vallejo Early Learning Center (ELC): On November 15th, 2024 Leadership Vallejo visited the Vallejo Early Learning Center for a site and informational tour. Leadership Vallejo is a nonprofit organization focused on personal and professional development, participated with 10 members in attendance. The tour was led by Susan Smith, Child Start Deputy Director; Alicia Gutierrez, First 5 Solano Health Education Specialist; and Josette Lacy, District 1 Representative. Participants learned about the vision, mission, and goals of the Early Learning Center, which is expected to soft open in the summer of 2025. The discussion also highlighted plans for a community resource center envisioned to further support Solano County community members. This visit provided an opportunity to engage community leaders and share the ELC's plans for serving Vallejo families.

Community Responsive Mini Grant Update During the second application period for FY2024/25, First 5 Solano awarded four grants totaling \$15,370. These grants support community engagement events, professional development opportunities, materials and equipment, and time-limited programs.

First 5 Solano received 26 proposals from nonprofits, daycare providers, and other community organizations in Solano County. Of these, 25 met the eligibility criteria and were reviewed by a panel of First 5 Solano staff. The review panel evaluated, ranked, and rated the applications, ultimately recommending four for funding to the Executive Director.

The total funding available for the Small Grant Fund in FY2024/25 is \$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 \$15,370. For this period, the 25 eligible applications represented a total funding request of approximately \$99,860.

**Community Responsive Mini Grant Awards of Funding
FY2024/25 Second Application Period**

	Agency	Grant Type	Recommended Amount
1	Home Sweet Hygiene	Materials and Equipment To purchase equipment to improve pediatric dental care and health outcomes for children in Solano County.	\$2,760
2	Special Care Services	Professional Development To provide a Developmental Disability and Neurodiversity Conference.	\$3,000
3	Solano County Resource Family Association	Materials and Equipment To purchase essential items for urgent situations faced by foster youth and new resource families.	\$5,000
4	Fairfield -Suisun Unified School District Family Resource Center	Materials and Equipment To purchase emergency basic needs supplies for children ages 0-5 who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.	\$4,610
		Total:	\$15,370

C. Systems Change Implementation Plan Updates

Partnership Health Plan Grant: The recent \$141,000 grant awarded to First 5 Solano represents a significant opportunity to expand and enhance systems of care for the community's most vulnerable populations. This funding will support providers delivering Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Health Worker (CHW) services, addressing key gaps in care through strategic collaboration.

In partnership with Applied Survey Research and Partnership Health Plan (PHP), First 5 Solano aims to identify and bridge funding shortfalls while strengthening essential community support services. Potential services eligible for PHP reimbursement include:

1. **Developmental Screenings and Care Coordination:** Delivered through First 5 Solano's *Help Me Grow Solano* program, which connects families to vital resources and early intervention services.
2. **Resource Specialist Services:** Offered at the First 5 Center in Vallejo and replicated at the soon-to-open First 5 Center in Fairfield to provide tailored support for families in need.
3. **Health Screenings and Resource Linkages:** Designed for families served by the upcoming *Rise Vallejo* early learning campus, which will provide integrated support for child development and family wellness.

This initiative reflects First 5 Solano's commitment to creating a robust and coordinated network of care, prioritizing early intervention and comprehensive support for families across Solano County, while addressing sustainability issues by identifying alternate source of funding for its portfolio.

California Forever Site Tour at the Early Learning Center: On December 12th First 5 Solano, in partnership with Supervisor Hannigan and Child Start leadership staff, will co-host a site tour for California Forever founders. This visit follows an initial site tour at the First 5 Center in Vallejo in August, where Jan and Naytri Srameck, co-founders of California Forever, were introduced to First 5 Solano's programs and services. The initial meeting sparked significant interest, leading to their request to tour the Early Learning Center (ELC) for a deeper understanding of its impact and operations.

School Based Health Center Tour: First 5 Solano leadership staff have been collaborating with Partnership Health Plan to develop strategies for establishing a school-based clinic at the Early Learning Center (ELC). This initiative aligns closely with First 5 Solano's mission, as the majority of children and families served through the Commission's programs, services, and funding are either current medical patients or eligible for care, and the community location is far from medical services.

Establishing a school-based clinic would provide accessible healthcare to children, families, and the surrounding community, while reinforcing the ELC's role as a cornerstone for whole-person wellness and comprehensive resources and support.

As part of this effort, First 5 Solano staff will visit an existing School-Based Health Center in Oakland on December 6th with consultants who have successfully operationalized similar facilities. This tour will provide valuable insights into best practices for clinic design, implementation, and sustainability. These learnings will inform the planning process and bring First 5 Solano closer to realizing this essential component of the ELC, ensuring that it continues to meet the needs of the community for years to come.

First 5 Sonoma HEALs Update: First 5 Sonoma learned about Solano's Doula Program during an external presentation by Dr. Shandi Fuller from Health and Social Services and Davon Crawford, the Doula Program trainer. Recognizing the program's potential benefits, extensive discussions took place among representatives from First 5 Sonoma, First 5 Solano, and Sonoma Health and Social Services. As a result, a partnership was established to pilot the Doula Program and other related components in Sonoma County. The First 5 Sonoma Commission approved \$100,000 in funding over two years (FY2024/25 and FY2025/26) to support the expansion of Solano's HEALs Program into Sonoma County.

Since the launch of Sonoma HEALs (SH) in July 2024, 10 women have graduated from the SH Centering the Doula program. Throughout the program, participants received mentoring, CPR training, and additional support. We had our Kickoff "Meet the Doula" Night which gave the doulas an opportunity to be introduced into the community. Six of those women went on to receive additional training on lactation education. We also welcomed our new program director Tiffany Lacey and the director of community/advocacy Monique La Vada McMath. Sonoma HEALs has made connections throughout the Sonoma community and has started forming collaborations with the NAACP, the Black/Brown Doula Support Strategy Collaborative and CBOs. Solano HEALs also presented at CHEAC (County Health Executives Association of California) annual conference as a new innovative program to decrease Black infant and maternal mortality rates.

Agenda Item VII: First 5 Solano Staffing and Finance Update

Staffing Update: First 5 Solano is fully staffed as of October 31, 2024 and does not anticipate any vacancies.

Finance Update: Through October 31, 2024 (33% of the year complete), \$1,082,204 (29%) of the budgeted revenues have been received. \$374,007 (28%) of the salaries & benefits budget has been expended, \$114,499 (27%) of the services and supplies budget has been expended, and \$458,801 (7%) of the grants budget has been expended.

Overall, \$1,082,204 (29%) in revenues have been received, and \$947,307 (12%) of expenses have been incurred.

Attachments

[Attachment A:](#) July 22, 2024 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

[Attachment B:](#) Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report

[Attachment C:](#) Early Learning Center Funding Request

[Attachment D:](#) Community Responsive Mini Grant Policy clean and track changes version

[Attachment E:](#) 2025 Legislative Priorities clean and track changes version

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

July 22, 2024, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
3375 Sonoma Blvd Ste 30, Vallejo, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Commissioner Neely McElroy, Commissioner Tyffany Wanberg

Vice-Chair McElroy called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

I. Introduction, Public Comment, Commissioner Comment

First 5 Solano (F5S) Deputy Director Denise Winters introduced First 5 Solano's newest hire, Yuliana Moreno. Ms. Moreno joins F5S from Napa County Office of Education and was hired as a Contract and Program Specialist overseeing and managing the Community Investment Fund grants.

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

- A. Approve the July 22, 2024 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the March 04, 2024 Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting minutes
- C. Receive the Commissioner Meeting Attendance Status Report

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

Yea: Commissioners

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Annual Grants Update

Motion: Consider recommending approval of allocation of funding of up to \$80,000 for FY2023-24 Annual Grant Extension in response to Request for Application #2023-04 as follows:

- 1. Bay Area Community Resources in the amount of \$20,000 to provide diapers to families through a Diaper Bank Program at the First 5 Center, Vallejo***
- 2. Gifted Minds in the amount of \$20,000 to provide transportation to childcare for under resourced children ages 0-5 and their parents/caregivers***
- 3. Vacaville Solano Services Corporation in the amount of \$20,000 to provide family supports and parent education in a safe and nurturing environment***
- 4. Solano County Resource Family Association in the amount of \$20,000 to pilot a trauma informed care training for caregivers of children ages 0-5***

F5S Contract and Program Specialist Kwiana Algere presented items one through three as it is necessary for Commissioner Wanberg to recuse herself from discussion in regard to Item four: Solano County Resource Family Association, her organization. As such, item four has been tabled for the full Commission meeting scheduled for August 21st, 2024.

Ms. Algere gave an update on how future annual grants could be allocated and processed. After an evaluation of FY2023/24 annual grant recipients, scoring existing proposals led to the current recommendation of extending annual grant funding to four grantees for the FY2024/25 funding cycle, totaling \$80k. These funds are leftover from FY2023/24 funding cycle as there were not enough successful applicants.

Amended Motion: Consider recommending approval of allocation of funding of up to \$60,000 for FY2023/24 Annual Grant Extension in response to Request for Application #2023-04 as follows:

- 1. Bay Area Community Resources in the amount of \$20,000 to provide diapers to families through a Diaper Bank Program at the First 5 Center, Vallejo***
- 2. Gifted Minds in the amount of \$20,000 to provide transportation to childcare for under resourced children ages 0-5 and their parents/caregivers***
- 3. Vacaville Solano Services Corporation in the amount of \$20,000 to provide family supports and parent education in a safe and nurturing environment***

Moved by Commissioner Wanberg; Seconded by Commissioner McElroy

Approved 2-0-0

Yea: Commissioners

Nay: None

Abstain: None

IV. 2023 Strategic Plan Implementation Updates

F5S Health Education Specialist Alicia Gutierrez presented on community engagement events that she has attended recently, including the Neurodiversity Conference and Family Fun Fest at Travis Airforce Base, Solano County Fair, and Vallejo's Juneteenth event. F5S Executive Director Michele Harris indicated that dwindling attendance at the Solano County Fair continued for another year in a row and as a result, First 5 Solano will no longer be participating in future Solano County Fairs; instead, efforts will focused on Juneteenth events.

Ms. Gutierrez also reported on Community Responsive Mini Grants, noting that there were 30 applicants with 8 mini grants being awarded and totaling nearly \$30,000 in grants.

F5S Policy and Fund Development Program Manager Toya Adams presented on Systems Change, noting that F5S' DEI workshops have concluded and were

successful. In addition, F5S gave separate tours to Supervisor Elect Cassandra James and Partnership Health Plan staff, with the latter being interested in partnering with F5S and the Early Learning Center.

V. First 5 Solano Staffing and Finance Update

F5S DD Winters noted that F5S is fully staffed and that the FY2023/24 Fiscal Year has officially ended.

VI. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date Location

The Policy and Oversight Committee is scheduled to meet next on Monday, September 23, 2024, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM, at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA. Future agenda items include: Early Learning Center update, Fairfield First 5 Center update, Strategic Plan Implementation updates, and Staffing and Finance.

Adjourn

Vice-Chair McElroy adjourned the meeting at 2:51 PM.

Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III

Approved:

2024 COMMISSIONER MEETING ATTENDANCE LOG

COMMISSION MEETINGS											
	1/24/2024		3/20/2024	4/17/2024	6/26/2024		8/21/2024		10/30/2024		12/18/2024
FABI/DONAHUE	Present	NO MEETING	Present		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	Present	NO MEETING	Present	NO MEETING	
MCELROY	Present		Present	Present			Present		Present		
ESTRELLA-HENDERSON	Present		Present	Present			Present		Present		
HANNIGAN	Present		Present	Present			Present		Present		
JONES	Present		Present	Present			Present		Present		
HUBER/ROBINSON**	Present		Present	Present			Present		Present		
SHAKOOR-GRANTHAM			Present	Present			Present		Present		
WALKER-GIBSON			Present	Present			Present		Present		
WANBERG			Present	Present			Present		Present		
POLICY & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETINGS											
	1/8/2024		3/4/2024	4/1/2024	6/3/2024	7/22/2024		9/23/2024			12/9/2024
FABI/ESTRELLA-HENDERSON	Present	NO MEETING	Present	NO	NO	NO	Present	NO	NO	NO	NO
WANBERG	Present		Present	NO	NO	NO	Present	NO	NO	NO	NO
HANNIGAN/MCELROY***	Present		Present	MEETING	MEETING	MEETING	Present	MEETING	MEETING	MEETING	MEETING

*Commissioner Present via Zoom
 ** Commissioner Robinson is replacing Commissioner Huber effective 3/20/24
 *** Commissioner McElroy is replacing Commissioner Hannigan effective 3/04/24

The Solano County Code (Chapter 7.3) and First 5 Commission Policy set forth the requirements of Commissioner meeting attendance. Per these documents, Commissioners cannot miss three Meetings in a row or more than 50% of Meetings in a calendar year, whereas "Meetings" are defined as meetings of the full Commission per the approved annual Commission Meeting Schedule. In addition, Commissioners serving on a standing Committee cannot miss more than 50% of Committee Meeting.

Memo

To: Michele Harris, First 5 Solano County Executive Director

CC: First 5 Solano County Children and Families Commission

From: Juan Cisneros, Child Start Executive Director

Date: 10/9/2024

Re: Vallejo Early Learning Center Budget Gap and Funding Request

Over the past six months, Child Start has been working with Terra Realty (project manager) and Landmark (general contractor) to assess construction needs and budget for the Vallejo Early Learning Center (ELC). Thorough investigations have been completed, covering every major system, including roofing, HVAC, landscaping, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, concrete, masonry, parking lots, and playgrounds.

A series of budget exercises have been completed to assess design options for the ELC with costs for each option superseding the initially proposed renovation budget of \$13,000,000 (current contract with First 5 Solano). The initial budget was developed using a preliminary schematic design from Quattrocchi Kwok Architects (QKA) completed over two years ago (July 2022). When comparing current cost assessments with those initially proposed, there is a significant gap, creating a shortage of funding to renovate the ELC.

To address the gap in funds, Child Start has requested an additional \$1,339,109 from the Office of Head Start. With the request there remains an estimated gap of \$2,600,000, which is needed to successfully open the ELC. This is due in great part to unaccounted costs in the initial assessment totaling \$3,450,000, including costs associated with meeting California Child Care Licensing and City of Vallejo requirements.

Unaccounted Costs

Upon request from Child Start, Terra Realty completed an analysis of the cost impacts to complete the ELC project, including new costs that were unaccounted for in the QKA proposal. Many of the costs are a result of the updated scope of work needed to reflect City, ADA and childcare licensing regulations, which were either significantly underpriced or not included at all in the original QKA cost summary. In addition, there was no consideration for cost escalation over the past two plus years in the original budget/scope of work.

The comparative analysis completed by Terra Realty highlighted significant discrepancies, adding expenses not considered in the QKA proposal as seen in the table below.

Scope of Work	Added Costs
Two toilets, changing areas, kitchen facilities (licensing)	\$900,000
2 nd exit for each classroom, with ADA ramps, etc. (licensing)	\$300,000
New trash enclosure (City)	\$120,000
EV Charging stations in parking lot (new building code)	\$180,000
Building C window replacement (defective)	\$140,000
City of Vallejo off-site repairs: s/c/g + street (City)	\$150,000
Solar infrastructure for future (future requirement)	\$60,000
Electrical for new toilets, kitchen facilities (licensing)	\$250,000
Playground prep, equipment (QKA undefined)	\$1,000,000
Added landscape and tree removal (City)	\$100,000
Hazmat investigation, mitigation (Testing results/code)	\$100,000
Allowance for additional repair after demo investigation	\$150,000
Total Added Costs	\$3,450,000

Estimated ELC Costs and Gap Funding Request

The estimated cost to renovate the Vallejo Early Learning Center is \$16,953,324, which is \$2,614,215 more than the current budget as seen in the table below. Included in the budget is \$1,790,169 in contingency funding, creating a reserve of funds to cover additional, unexpected expenses. The “Contingencies” cost category presents the biggest possibility for savings when compared to other cost categories in the budget. It is expected that there will be savings in contingency funds. That said, Child Start is respectfully requesting up to \$2,600,000 in gap funding to help realize the goal of fully opening the Vallejo Early Learning Center in August 2025. Only the funds needed will be accessed and as mentioned above, there will (most likely) not be a need for the full \$2,600,000, as we are projecting some savings in contingency funding.

Current Budget	\$14,339,109
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Expenditures	
Construction	\$14,013,561
Contingencies	\$1,790,169
Allowances	\$678,466
Value Engineering	-\$430,000
Soft Costs	\$901,128
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Total Expenditures	\$16,953,324
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Gap in Funds	\$2,614,215

MINI GRANTS POLICY

This Policy sets forth the guidelines and criteria for offering mini grants (formerly referred to as “small grants”) of up to \$5,000 in funding, for services, or supplies to community agencies, individuals, and businesses for activities such as events, trainings, time-limited programs, or one-time expenditures.

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission may designate funds for mini grants annually during the budget approval process or through other budget actions. Any unspent balance remaining for any grant type at the end of a fiscal year will return to the Commission’s Long-Term Financial Plan.

Mini grants must meet the following criteria:

1. Activities must benefit pregnant women, children ages 0-5, their parents/caregivers, and/or providers of services to children ages 0-5 and their families.
2. The activity must be conducted by a community agency, individual, or business providing services directly to pregnant women, children ages 0-5 and their families.
3. Activities must further the priorities and goals of First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission as set forth in its Strategic Plan.
4. Activities funded by this grant must occur within Solano County and align with one of the following categories
 - a. Resource Component: Such as supporting a Community Engagement event
 - b. Education Component: Such as providing professional development opportunities
 - c. Materials and Equipment: Purchasing materials, equipment, and supplies for program or activity
 - d. Awareness Component: Such as supporting a time limited program or event
5. Activities must be designated tobacco-free.
6. Activity may not be used for religious purposes, to benefit an individual, promote a fundraiser, or to promote a candidate for public office.
7. A single agency may not receive more than \$5,000 in any fiscal year.
8. First 5 grantees that are funded for an activity may not use mini grant funds for that same activity.
9. Requests must be made using an approved application form.
10. Applications will be reviewed by First 5 Solano staff using a scoring rubric designed for the specific grant opportunity. Applications recommended for funding will be presented to the First 5 Solano Executive Director for approval. Status of all submitted applications will be reported out at the following Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting.
11. If the grant is approved, Grantee must read and sign an “Agreement for First 5 Grant Funds” prior to authorization for funds.
12. Grantees must acknowledge the support of First 5 Solano Children and Families

Commission in advertising.

13. Grantees must agree to complete and return the “Grant Activity Report” about how the funds were used within 30 days of the completion of the activity. Any individual or organization that fails to provide this report may be considered ineligible for future funding.
14. Grant funds must be utilized in the fiscal year in which they are issued. Any funds not utilized in the fiscal year in which they were issued must be returned to First 5 Solano.

MINI SMALL GRANTS POLICY

This Policy sets forth the guidelines and criteria for offering small-mini grants ~~(formerly referred to as "small grants")~~ of \$500 up to \$5,000 up to \$7,500 in funding, for services, or supplies to community agencies, individuals, and businesses for activities such as events, trainings, time-limited programs, or one-time expenditures, ~~and technical assistance.~~

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission may designate funds for mini grants annually during the budget approval process or through other budget actions. ~~on an annual basis during the budget approval process or through other budget actions for a variety of small grants.~~ Any unspent balance remaining for any grant type at the end of a fiscal year will return to the Commission's Long-Term Financial Plan.

Small-Mini grants must meet the following criteria:

1. Activities must benefit pregnant women, children ages 0-5, their parents/caregivers, and/or providers of services to children ages 0-5 and their families.
2. The activity must be conducted by a community agency, individual, or business providing services directly to pregnant women, children ages 0-5 and their families.
3. Activities must further the priorities and goals of First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission as set forth in its Strategic Plan.
4. ~~Activities must take place in Solano County and fall under one of the following categories:~~ Activities funded by this grant must occur within Solano County and align with one of the following categories
 - a. Resource Component: Such as sSupporting a -Community Engagement event
 - b. Education Component: Such as Providing professional development opportunities
 - c. Materials and Equipment: Purchasing materials, equipment, and supplies for program or activity
 - ~~d. _____~~
- ~~5.~~ 6. Activities must be designated tobacco-free.
- ~~6.~~ 7. Activity may not be used for religious purposes, to benefit an individual, promote a fundraiser, or to promote a candidate for public office.
- ~~7.~~ 8. A single agency may not receive more than \$5,000 in any fiscal year.
- ~~8.~~ 9. First 5 grantees that are funded for an activity may not use small-mini grant funds for that same activity.
- ~~9.~~ 10. Requests must be made using an approved application form.
- ~~10.~~ 11. Applications will be reviewed by First 5 Solano staff using a scoring rubric designed for the specific grant opportunity. Applications recommended for funding will be presented to the First 5 Solano Executive Director for approval. Status of all submitted applications

will be reported out at the following Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting.

- ~~12.11.~~ If the grant is approved, Grantee must read and sign an “Agreement for First 5 Grant Funds” prior to authorization for funds.
- ~~13.12.~~ Grantees must acknowledge the support of First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission in advertising.
- ~~14.13.~~ Grantees must agree to complete and return the “Grant Activity Report” about how the funds were used within 30 days of the completion of the activity. Any individual or organization that fails to provide this report may be considered ineligible for future funding.
- ~~15.14.~~ Grant funds must be utilized in the fiscal year in which they are issued. Any funds not utilized in the fiscal year in which they were issued must be returned to First 5 Solano.



FIRST 5 SOLANO

2025 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 2025

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 under-resourced communities. 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 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 2025 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.
- 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, 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.



FIRST 5 SOLANO

2024-2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



PURPOSE

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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

2024-2025 Solano County State & Federal Legislative Platforms

Children Now Pro-Kid Agenda

First 5 Association Policy Platform

First 5 California Policy Platform

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