

COMMISSION MEETING
June 26, 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

Information

This is the opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on matters not listed on the Agenda that are otherwise within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Please submit a Speaker Card and limit your comments to 3 minutes.

II. Consent Calendar (5 min)

Action

- A. Approve the June 26, 2024 Commission Meeting Agenda
- B. Approve the [April 17, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes](#)

III. Continuing Annual Grants

Action

Motion A: Consider approval of allocations 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 Corp – 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

Kwiana Algere, Program Manager

IV. State Budget Update on Impact to Children and Families

Information/Discussion

Receive a verbal update on the proposed state budget and the potential impacts to programs that support children and families
Michele Harris, Executive Director; Jerry Huber, Director, Solano County Health and Social Services

V. Help Me Grow Solano Presentation

Information/Discussion

Receive a presentation on the [Help Me Grow Program](#)
Toya Adams, Program Manager; Cinda Rae Clemente, Help Me Grow Solano Program Manager, Solano Children and Families Services

VI. Executive Director's Report (15 min)

Information

Michele Harris, Executive Director

VII. Commissioner Remarks (5 min)

Information

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

Information

The next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting is August 21, 2024 at 3:00PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items include: ELC Update

ADJOURN

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

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

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

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

April 17, 2024, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
3375 Sonoma Blvd, Suite 30, Vallejo, CA

Minutes

Commissioners present: Nimat Shakoor-Grantham, Nikila Walker-Gibson, Tyffany Wanberg, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Neely McElroy

Chair McElroy called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM, however there was no quorum. Without a quorum present, Applied Survey Research's Lisa Niclai began presenting First 5 Solano's Strategic Plan Review and Community Indicators data. Commissioner Walker-Gibson joined the meeting at 3:43 PM and the presentation by Ms. Niclai was paused so action items could be voted on.

I. Public Comment

No public comment.

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

A. Approve the April 17, 2024 Commission Meeting Agenda

B. Approve the March 20, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes

Consent Calendar moved by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson; Seconded by Commissioner Wanberg

Approved 5-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Election of Officers

Motion: Approve the appointment of Neely McElroy as 2024 Chair and Lisette Estrella-Henderson as 2024 Vice Chair of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Election of Officers moved by Commissioner Wanberg; Seconded by Commissioner Shakoor-Grantham

Approved 5-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

IV. Child Care Provider Appreciation Day Resolution

Motion: Adopt a resolution recognizing May 8, 2024 as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day

Child Care Provider Appreciation Day Resolution moved by Commissioner Wanberg; Seconded by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson

Approved 5-0-0

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

V. Strategic Plan Review & Review Community Indicators of Child Well-Being

Lisa Niclai, of Applied Survey Research (ASR), presented on the First 5 Solano (F5S) Strategic Plan Review. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to help provide a framework for making investment decisions that most closely align with F5S values and priorities and was last updated in 2022. The strategic framework encompasses 4 priority areas with 7 goals intertwined.

Ms. Niclai also presented on Community Indicator Data. Community Indicators include data in Demographics, Health and Well-Being (Priority Area 1), Early Childhood Learning and Development (Priority Area 2), and Family Support and Parent Education. The data presented explores how Solano County has fared compared with neighboring counties and the State overall. No changes to the Strategic Plan are recommended at this time.

VI. Annual Grant Allocations of Funding

Motion: Approve allocations of funding for up to \$52,140 for FY2024/25 Annual Grants in response to Request for Applications #2024-01 as follows:

a. \$12,140 to Circle of Friends to provide Conscious Discipline teacher coaching, parent education, and family activities

b. \$20,000 to Make it Home to expand the reach of Make it Home services to families in Solano County with children ages 0-5 to ensure that families are safe, stable, and self-sufficient through providing furniture

c. \$20,000 to Solano County Health Equity for African American/Black Lives to provide race equity trainings for healthcare professionals serving Black babies, mothers, and families

**Annual Grant Allocations of Funding moved by Commissioner Estrella-Henderson;
Seconded by Commissioner Wanberg**

Approved 5-0-0

Yea: Commissioners

Nay: None

Abstain: None

VII. Executive Director's Report

First 5 Solano Executive Director Michele Harris advised that a new round of Community Responsive Mini Grants is now available. These mini grants provide less funding than Annual Grants but can be a great stepping stone for agencies eventually wanting to apply for an Annual Grant.

VIII. Commissioner Remarks

No Commissioner remarks.

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

The next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting is June 19, 2024 at 3:00PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items: Allocations of Funding, Grantee Presentation

Adjourn

Chair McElroy adjourned the meeting at 4:35 PM.

Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III

Approved:

DATE: June 26, 2024
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Kwiana Algere, Program Manager
SUBJ: FY2024/25 Continuing Annual Grants

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

- a. **\$20,000 to Bay Area Community Resources to supply diapers to families through a Diaper Bank Program at the First 5 Center.**
- b. **\$20,000 to Gifted Minds Home Learning Daycare to provide transportation and childcare for under resourced children ages 0-5 and their parents/caregivers.**
- c. **\$20,000 to Vacaville Solano Services Corp to provide family supports and parent education in a safe and nurturing environment.**
- d. **\$20,000 Solano County Resource Family Association To pilot a Trauma Informed Care Training for caregivers of children ages 0-5.**

Staff Report: In August 2022, Applied Survey Research presented to the Policy and Oversight Committee, discussing funding and process considerations for future Annual Grants. The Committee agreed that up to 20% of grants should be allocated to repeat projects to sustain success. First 5 Solano Program Manager, Kwiana Algere, evaluated FY2023/24 grantees based on criteria including program evidence and impact, funding management, and collaborations, with a maximum of 10 points possible. Out of eight grantees assessed, four scored 6 out of 10, making them eligible for project continuation.

For the FY2024/25 Annual Grant cycle, First 5 Solano proposes to extend funding to the 2023/24 Annual Grant grantees for another year. The Commission allocated \$160,000 towards FY2024/25 Annual Grants, recommending approval for three grants totaling \$52,140, leaving a balance of \$107,860. However, due to insufficient applicants meeting criteria, decreased submissions, and agencies ineligible for reapplication based on the five-year criteria or low application scores, there is an unspent balance.

Given constraints of time limitations for the RFP process, and applicant barriers, it's not advisable to issue another RFP. Therefore, First 5 Solano proposes funding all four 2023/24 Annual Grant grantees for a total of \$80,000 from the remaining FY2024/25 funds, enabling project continuation in the upcoming fiscal year.

	Agency	Program Description	Recm'd	Strategic Plan Priority	Geographic Location
1	Bay Area Community Resources	To supply diapers to families through a Diaper Bank Program at the First 5 Center.	\$20,000	Health & Well-Being	Vallejo
5	Gifted Minds	To provide transportation and childcare for under resourced children ages 0-5 and their parents/caregivers.	\$20,000	Early Childhood Learning and Development	Countywide
7	Vacaville Solano Services Corp	To provide family supports and parent education in a safe and nurturing environment	\$20,000	Family Support and Parent Education	Vacaville
8	Solano County Resource Family Association	To pilot a Trauma Informed Care Training for caregivers of children ages 0-5.	\$20,000	Family Support and Parent Education	Countywide
	Totals:		\$80,000		

Note: All awardees will be notified that the award of funds by the Commission does not constitute approval to move forward with services. Contracts for services must be successfully negotiated and executed before work can begin. Furthermore, no funds may be expended prior to the execution of contracts approved by County Counsel and the Executive Director/County Administrator, as appropriate.

Following a review of the 2024/25 Annual Grant implementation and criteria, staff conducted interviews with applicants that submitted LOI's which provided the following feedback:

- Process daunting
- Thought LOI was the application
- Thought application was submitted
- Not enough funding to impact proposed program
- Proposal was not focused or ready to present

In response, staff recommend the following changes for the upcoming Annual Grant cycle:

- Increase grant awards by \$5,000 each, totaling \$25,000
- Offer a grant writing workshop focusing on the Four "C"s of grant writing (Clear, Concise, Comprehensive, and Compelling) to previous grantees who were not selected and struggle with crafting compelling grant applications.
- Reducing the resubmission period from five years to three years.

Staff anticipate that these changes will encourage more application submissions and provide better match for needed resources in the community.

ANNUAL GRANTS UPDATE

June 26, 2024



What is an Annual Grant?

Annual Grants should align with the Strategic Plan Framework and meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Addresses gaps in the community
2. Addresses a community disparity
3. Addresses a time-sensitivity community need



Annual Grant Update

The Commission allocated \$160,000 towards FY2024/25 Annual Grants, recommending approval for three grants totaling \$52,140, leaving a balance of \$107,860.

Due to insufficient applicants meeting criteria, decreased submissions, and agencies ineligible for reapplication based on the five-year criteria or low application scores, there is an unspent balance.

Annual Grant Extension Criteria

First 5 Solano Annual Grant Review Checklist

The purpose of this checklist is to rate the performance of currently funded annual grant projects to assess whether the project should be considered eligible to receive an annual grant for an additional year.

Agency: _____

Grant: _____

Was the grant for a project or program that is ongoing and continuing next fiscal year?

Yes No

If yes, complete the table below. If no, the grant is not eligible for a second year.

Contract Managers (CM) and Deputy Director (DD) complete the table below for each eligible grant. If the criterion is met, place a 1 in the score column. If the criterion is not met, place a 0 in the column.

	Completed by	Score	Notes
Program Services, Evidence Base and Impact			
The program being funded is evidence-based or evidence informed	DD		
The program being funded addresses a service gap, community disparity, and/or a time-sensitive community need aligned with First 5 Solano's Strategic Plan	DD		
All data has been submitted on time.	CM		
Program performance measures were consistently met through Q3	CM		
Funding, Invoicing, and Sustainability			
Costs are reasonable for the services provided/number of people served	DD		
Grantee has secured other sources of funding for this project	DD		
At least one component of the project is sustainable beyond the initial project period	DD		
Collaborators and Stakeholders			
Grantee collaborates with other organizations to strengthen the project	DD		
The performance on this grant has a direct effect on the operations or performance of partner programs or systems	DD		
The project funded has high visibility and/or importance for policymakers	DD		
Total			

Annual Grant Extension Recommendation

First 5 Solano proposes funding all four 2023/24 Annual Grant grantees for a total of \$80,000 from the remaining FY2024/25 funds, enabling project continuation in the upcoming fiscal year.

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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

Annual Grant Review

Following a review of the FY2024/25 Annual Grant implementation and criteria, staff conducted interviews with applicants that submitted LOI's, but then didn't submit a full proposal, to discover the reasons behind the lack of application. Staff received following feedback:

- Process too daunting
- Thought LOI was the application
- Thought application was submitted
- Not enough funding to impact proposed program
- Proposal was not focused or ready to present



Annual Grant Policy Change Recommendation

In response, staff recommend the following changes for the upcoming Annual Grant cycle:

Increase grant awards by \$5,000 each, totaling \$25,000, for four new grantees.

In addition, allocate \$60,000, at \$20,000 each, for up to three previous grantees to continue their projects for a second year.

Offer a grant writing workshop focusing on the Four "C"s of grant writing (Clear, Concise, Comprehensive, and Compelling) to previous grantees who were not selected and struggle with crafting compelling grant applications.

Reducing the resubmission period from five years to three years.

Thank you !!

QUESTIONS ?

DATE: June 26, 2024

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Toya Adams, Program Manager

SUBJ: FY2024/25 Help Me Grow Solano Program Update

V. Help Me Grow Solano Program

The Help Me Grow Solano program, operated by Solano Family and Children's Services, stands out as one of Solano County's leading resources and referral programs for children and families. Beyond providing essential referrals for basic needs, Help Me Grow Solano Family Navigators support families in navigating systems to ensure they are connected to necessary services.

Solano Family and Children's Services (SFCS) is in its sixth year of implementation of the Help Me Grow (HMG) Solano call line and referral system. As of mid-year, HMG Solano has received 1,326 calls out of 1,800 annually required calls and provided 1,013 referrals for basic needs, childcare supports and mental health concerns. HMG Solano staff have also conducted 226 out of 580 developmental screenings with children that may have developmental or behavioral concerns. HMG Solano is on track to meet these measures by the end of the program year.

HMG Solano continues to provide outreach to child health care providers, children's programs, and providers of services through developmental screening and outreach events, community outlets, group, and one on one presentations informing those of the services offered by the HMG Solano program.



FIRST 5 SOLANO COMMISSION PRESENTATION

June 26, 2024



HELP ME GROW SERVICES



- Maintain the Help Me Grow Solano Centralized Access Call Line
 - Provide families with information on community resources, importance of screening, etc.
 - Make connections to services and resources as requested.
 - Follow up calls within 2-4 weeks *(until services are received)*.
-

NEW CLIENTS AND REFERRALS

Incoming Referrals

Goal: 1620
Current: 2069

Outgoing Referrals

Current: 3147

New Client Count

Goal: 1800
Current: 2699

Families Served

Current: 2008



PARTNERSHIPS

Solano County Libraries

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Kaiser Permanente

Community Outreach

Goal: 16 Current: 23

Meetings/Presentation with New Health Care Providers

Goal: 8 Current: 31

Engage New Health Care Providers

Goal: 50 Current: 63

I'm wild about books!

Have questions about your child's development, behavior, or learning?

Help Me Grow Family Navigators can connect you to the following free resources:

- Basic Needs & Family Support
- Developmental Screenings
- Child Care & Preschool
- Parenting Support
- Healthcare
- Support for Children with Special Needs
- And More!

Help Me Grow Solano

1-844-501-5437

helpmegrowsolano.org

Help Me Grow Solano

SCAN ME

Scan the QR code with your phone to access our website!

Talk Read Sing

Take advantage of any opportunity to talk, read, and sing to your child to teach them about language and its connection to the world around us.

Help Me Grow Solano is a program of:

Solano Family & Children's Services
Your Child Care & Resource Connection

Generously funded by:

FIRST5 SOLANO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

SOLANO COUNTY Behavioral Health

DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS

Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)

Low Risk – Electronic Screenings

Goal: 330

Current: 306

Medium Risk – In-Person Screenings

Goal: 220

Current: 266

High Risk – Number of children referred for further assessment or services due to their ASQ score.

Current: 151



FAMILY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Families who have intense needs or multiple agencies involved with their child or family

Parent/Family's Strengths

Current areas of need

Goals and Action Steps

Follow-up

Goal: 15 Current: 10

Strength-based Plan

- Map out the current services and supports
- Interested parties work together to learn what the family hopes to accomplish
- Set realistic and important goals, recognize and encourage the family's strengths
- Find solutions that build on the family's strengths
- Facilitate the opportunity for positive changes

ENHANCED CHILD CARE REFERRAL

Families who need additional support to find child care due to their child's behavior or developmental needs.

The Family Navigator makes calls to child care providers to narrow the list given to the parent.



Current: 137

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Help Me Grow Steering Committee
- Help Me Grow “Get Connected” Meetings
- Advertisements
 - Solano Mall
 - KUIC
- Giving Closet
- Cribs for Kids
- Diaper Donation
- Lending Library
- Table Talk



TABLE TALK

September 2022

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">FREE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Would you like to know if your child is reaching his or her developmental milestones?</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Call Help Me Grow Solano 1-844-501-5437 to schedule an appointment for an in person developmental screening! Ages 2-60 months</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">MONTHLY MINDFULNESS</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">UNPLUGGED TIME: MAKE TIME FOR PDF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playtime • Downtime (sleep, rest) • Family Time (dinners, movie night) <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">Face to Face interaction help children de-stress</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; font-size: x-small;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">SEPTEMBER WORKSHOPS</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Trauma Informed Care: An Overview 09/13/2022 6:00-8:00p.m.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Connecting Bodily Sensations: Pt 2 of 6 09/28/2022 6:30-8:30p.m.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">To register for the training above CLICK HERE</p> </div>
<p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;"> PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center; color: #0070c0;"><u>Back To School</u></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Starting back to school can be challenging for some children. Having routines in place can help with this. Depending on age discuss your child's day with them in the morning so they can have an idea of what to expect for the day.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: #0070c0;">Fun surprises here and there are also great to throw in!</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">For more helpful parenting tips call: Help me Grow Solano 844-501-5437</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">RECIPE OF THE MONTH</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0; font-size: x-small;">MAC & CHEESE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Cups Milk • 1 Lb. Elbow Macaroni • 2 Cups Shredded Cheddar Cheese <p style="font-size: x-small;">Prep: Bring milk to a boil then add pasta, cook thoroughly (time on box). Remove from heat, add cheese, and stir until cheese is melted. Grab a bowl and enjoy! (You can also try other cheeses for a different taste)</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">ACTIVITY IDEA</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0; font-size: x-small;">Human Size Tic-Tac-Toe</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Using painter's tape, tape off a 3x3 grid on the floor. Grab 10 paper plates and write "X" on bottom of 5 plates and "O" on bottom of 5 plates. Choose your letter and have fun!</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">LENNY'S LENDING LIBRARY</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">The Lending Library is open to all Solano County parents, child care providers, teachers, etc. We have FREE curriculum boxes, games, books, and activity bags you can check out for up to a month. The Lending Library also has laminating, die cutting, and button making services for a small fee.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">BECOME A LICENSED CHILD CARE PROVIDER!</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Looking to change careers? Be your own boss! Make your own schedule! Becoming a licensed child care provider may be perfect for you!</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Join us for our June "Becoming a Licensed Child Care Provider" educational session for more information!</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">09/07/22: 10:00-11:30a.m. 09/12/22: 6:30-8:00p.m.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: #0070c0;">CLICK HERE to register</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Or visit our website www.solanofamily.org</p>	

Solano Family
By Children's Services
Your Child Care & Resource Connection

Help Me Grow Solano
1-844-501-KIDS (5437)



Thank you for supporting Help Me Grow Solano!

Cinda-Rae Clemente, Resource & Referral Program Manager
cclemente@solanofamily.org
707-864-4620

Molly Gagliardi, HMG Family Navigator
mgagliardi@solanofamily.org
707-864-4622



Date: June 21, 2024
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director
SUBJ: Executive Director’s Report for June 26, 2024

Community Engagement Update

Community Responsive Mini Grants Update: For the first application period of FY2024/25, \$30,000 was made available between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025 for grant requests up to \$5,000 for community engagement events, professional development opportunities, materials and equipment, and time-limited programs. The first period Community Responsive Mini Grant application was released on April 8, 2024 and applications were due April 29, 2024.

Thirty proposals from nonprofits, childcare sites, and other community organizations in Solano County were submitted to First 5 Solano. Twenty-five of those applications satisfied the requirements for consideration for funding and were evaluated. The review panel then gathered to decide on their final rankings and ratings, and eight applications were recommended for funding to the Executive Director. The awarded Mini Grants are listed below.

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

	Agency	Grant Type	Recommended Amount
1	Advanced Peace	Time Limited To provide a capacity-building program specifically for fathers who have been identified to be at the center of gun violence and have children aged 0-5.	\$4,000
2	Les Petits Papillon	Time Limited To provide a STEM Skills Development Initiative (SSDI) program to offer hands-on learning experience for children ages 2 to 5 years old.	\$5,000
3	Home Sweet Hygiene	Materials & Equipment To purchase dental hygiene supplies, education materials and mobile clinic equipment to promote and improve access to pediatric dental care.	\$5,000
4	Solano County WIC	Professional Development To provide a training for WIC staff to become Certified Lactation Educators (CLE) to support breastfeeding mothers and infants in Solano County.	\$2,250
5	FosterLuv	Professional Development To provide a Foster Kinship Care Education (FKCE) Annual Training conference to over 250 attendees.	\$3,000
6	Food is Free	Time Limited To provide a Cooking for Families with Food Bank Resources Program for families with children 0-5.	\$5,000
7	SafeQuest Solano	Material & Equipment To purchase mobile phones and document assistance vouchers to support survivors of domestic violence and their children through Project Reconnect.	\$4,880
8	Vallejo First 5 Center	Community Engagement To provide a Community Baby Shower to address basic needs supports and increase awareness on how to support birthing parents and their babies.	\$500
		Total:	29,630

Solano County Public Health 2024 Division Wide Meeting: On May 15th, 2024, Health Education Specialist, Alicia Gutierrez attended the Public Health Division meeting at the Fairfield Community Center for a Trauma-Informed Training and public health division updates. First 5 Solano participated in the event to engage with Solano County staff, share informational materials and upcoming local events for children and families 0-5, and distributed First 5 Solano community engagement materials. The event provided an opportunity to network with Solano public health staff and gain insight into local community resources.

2024 Vallejo Juneteenth Celebration: On Saturday, June 15, 2024, First 5 Solano staff Kwiana Algere and Toya Adams, participated in the 34th Annual Juneteenth Festival and Parade in Vallejo from 11am to 5pm. First 5 Solano participated by offering resources and First 5 Solano swag for children and families. Juneteenth, observed on June 19th, commemorates the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States.



2024 Solano County Fair: The Solano County Fair was held in person on June 15th and 16th, with this year's theme being "Community." First 5 Solano and its partners actively participated in the 2024 Solano County Fair by hosting the "First 5 Family Fun Zone," which featured the First 5 Solano calendar theme of "Bees & Butterflies." This designated area catered to young children and their families, providing a space for engagement and learning. In collaboration with Help Me Grow Solano, Child Start, and other community partners, First 5 Solano offered families valuable information on programs, services, and activities for young children. The First 5 Family Fun Zone was open from noon to 6 PM on both June 15th and 16th.

County-Wide Website Revamp: Enhancing Accessibility and Equity for Solano Residents: First 5 Solano is in the process of revamping its website as part of a county-wide initiative to enhance the usability, equity, and accessibility of the Solano County website for all residents. Health Education Specialist Alicia Gutierrez, along with other First 5 staff, is leading the website redesign for First 5 Solano. The revamped website is scheduled for implementation in the fall of 2024.

First 5 Solano Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Workshops: As a component of its Strategic Framework, First 5 Solano recently hosted its inaugural series of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) workshops. These sessions, led by Pati Navalta, a certified DEI communications expert, provided participants with invaluable perspectives and communication tools aimed at cultivating an open and safe workplace environment. Each workshop built upon the insights and tools acquired in previous sessions. A total of 26 active participants from diverse collaborative agencies serving children aged 0-5 and their families attended. The workshops sparked profound self-reflection and fostered candid dialogue, aimed at helping participants identify communication skills conducive to a more inclusive workplace culture.

Aligned with First 5 Solano's System Change priority, these workshops will extend to four partnering agencies in FY2024/25, held once per quarter. The continuation of the DEI workshops will be supported by First 5 Solano through Systems Change.

Supervisor Elect Cassandra James First 5 Center Tour: On May 30th, First 5 Solano staff met with Supervisor Elect Cassandra James for a tour and orientation of programs and services. During the First 5 Center tour, Supervisor James was able to observe a Creative Minds activity for 2-3 year old's. The tour concluded with a viewing of the Early Learning Center (ELC) video and an overview of the ELC project. Supervisor Elect James brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to her incumbent position as the District 1 Board of Supervisors representative. First 5 Solano congratulates Supervisor James on her appointment.

Partnership Health Plan First 5 Center Tour: On June 11th, the Partnership Health Plan of California's Quality Improvement and Community Outreach Team was warmly welcomed by the First 5 Staff for an insightful tour of the First 5 Center. Six participants joined the engaging site visit, witnessing firsthand the vibrant atmosphere of open play for children and families. Concluding the tour, the PHC team received an informal introduction to First 5 Solano's Systems Change program and services, with a spotlight on the Early Learning Center, and discussed possibilities in partnership to serve families with young children.

California Budget and Policy Center Annual Conference: On April 16, 2024, staff from First 5 Solano participated in the annual conference held in Sacramento. Themed "Making Progress for Californians," the conference addressed the pressing issue of navigating through a significant economic downturn. Plenary sessions were meticulously arranged, delving into crucial elements of The Early Action Deal and the ramifications of the Taxpayer Deception Act. Panelists shared insights into the potential adverse impacts on vital public safety services and historically marginalized communities. A notable takeaway from the conference emphasized the imperative of prioritizing critical resources amidst the economic challenges. Moreover, attendees were urged to temporarily suspend proposals for expansion and instead forge connections with local subcommittee chairs and representatives in their respective regions.

Rise Vallejo Early Education & Community Resource Center (formerly known as the Vallejo Early Learning Center): Drum roll please..... after the input at the Early Learning Center launch gathering in January and many hours of discussion the Leadership Team has reached consensus for the name and logo for the Early Learning Center. Rise Vallejo, Early Education and Community Resource Center. The logo's below represent happiness, vibrancy and the dedication that the site will bring to Vallejo.



Sustainability Advocacy Strategy (SAS): Executive Director Michele Harris has engaged in discussions with the Executive Director of First 5 California regarding outcome data aimed at co-authoring a forthcoming sustainability advocacy strategy. First 5 Solano, in collaboration with Applied Survey Research, has drafted an impact brief to underscore the significance of First 5 initiatives statewide and the imperative for sustainability advocacy amidst steep declines in tax revenue.

The sustainability advocacy strategy is in its preliminary stages of discussion involving stakeholders from First 5 CA, First 5 Association, First 5 Solano, and ASR. The formulation of a sustainability plan would involve the entire First 5 Network, comprising Executive Directors and Commissioners from all 58 counties.

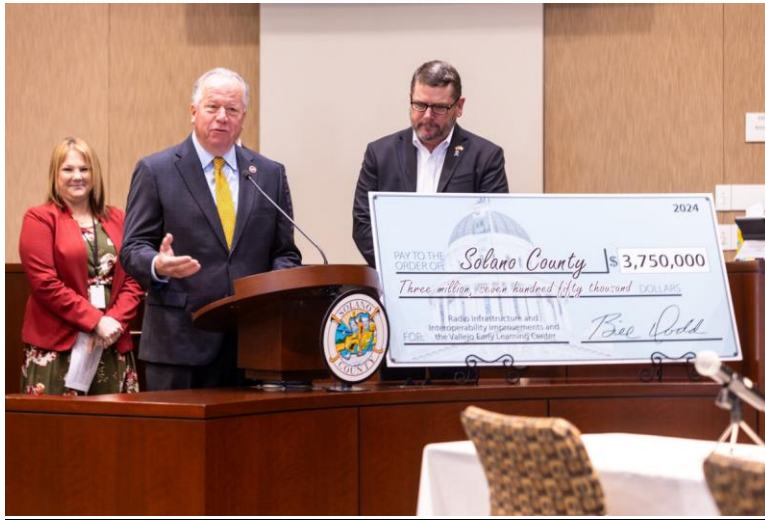
Congressman Garamendi Visits First 5 Center, Vallejo



May 20, 2024, Congressman Garamendi and his legislative staff visited our colleagues at the First 5 Center in Vallejo to present a check for \$500,000 to benefit the Vallejo Early Learning Center Project. As part of his visit, the Congressman was welcomed by our

colleagues at First 5 Solano, representatives from District 1, and members of the First 5 Solano Commission and Child Start. The funds were part of an earmark award we received on behalf of the federal government, thanks to hard work from our departments, with guidance from Paragon Government Relations, and the direction and support from our Board of Supervisors.

Senator Dodd Presents Solano County with \$3.75 Million Dollar Check, \$1,000,000 of which is for First 5 Solano for the ELC



On Tuesday, April 2, 2024, Senator Dodd presented Solano County with a \$3.75 million check that will be used for “critical” projects, with \$1 million going toward improving the Vallejo Early Learning Center. Senator Dodd continues to provide support for the Early Learning Center, Vallejo with great enthusiasm and a promise to come and visit the site often. The funds were part of the FY2023/24 earmark award we received on behalf of the state of California.

Yocha Dehe Wintun Award of Additional Funding: On May 14, 2024, the Executive Director of First 5 Solano was informed that the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation had generously granted an extra \$100,000 to the First 5 Center in Vallejo. This unexpected funding was bestowed upon the Center in recognition of its exceptional service and dedication to children and families. In a gesture of appreciation and dedication to enhancing early learning initiatives, First 5 Solano extended heartfelt thanks to the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation for their valuable collaboration and partnership.

Excerpt from the award letter:

“As a continuation of our current and historical financial contribution to programs that support youth, such as Frist 5 Vallejo and various social services programs that serve the broader Solano County Community, today we are writing to let you know that the Tribe will be making an additional \$100,000 contribution to your program for 2024. This is in addition to the \$500,000 contribution provided earlier this year, and total of \$2,700,000 since 2017”.