

COMMISSION MEETING
December 18, 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 |
| <i>This is the opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on matters not listed on the Agenda that are otherwise within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Please submit a Speaker Card and limit your comments to 3 minutes.</i> | |
| II. Consent Calendar (5 min) | Action |
| A. Approve the December 18, 2024 Commission Meeting Agenda | |
| B. Approve the October 30, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes | |
| III. Policy and Oversight Committee (45 min) | Action |
| A. Early Learning Center Allocation
Motion: Consider a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee to allocate \$2,600,000 to Child Start from the Commission's Reserve to complete the renovation of the facility
<i>Denise Winters, Deputy Director</i> | |
| B. Annual Review of Commission Policies
Motion: Consider a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee to amend the Small Grants policy | |
| C. Proposed 2025 Legislative Platform
Motion: Consider a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee to approve the 2025 Legislative Platform
<i>Toya Adams, Program Manager</i> | |
| IV. Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Update (30 min) | Information |
| A. <i>Receive an update on the UPK Impact Study</i> | |
| B. <i>Receive an update on the First 5 California Impact Project</i>
<i>Denise Winters, Deputy Director; Lisa Eckhoff, Solano County Office of Education</i> | |
| V. Executive Director's Report (20 min) | Information |
| <i>Michele Harris, Executive Director</i> | |
| VI. Commissioner Remarks (5 min) | Information |
| VII. Future Agenda Items, Meeting Time/Date/Location | Information |
| The next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting is January 15, 2025 at 3:00PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items include: Committee Report, Budget, Positive Parenting Awareness Month Resolution | |

Neely McElroy, Chair
Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Vice Chair
Roger Robinson
Nikila Walker-Gibson
Tyffany Wanberg



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

Tiffanee Jones
Erin Hannigan
Lisa Donahue
Michele Harris, ED

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**

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

Minutes

Commissioners present: Chair Neely McElroy (joined at 3:15 PM), Vice Chair Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Lisa Donahue, Erin Hannigan, Nikila Walker-Gibson (joined at 3:37 PM), Tyffany Wanberg

Vice Chair Estrella-Henderson called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM

I. Public Comment

First 5 Solano's newest Commissioner, Lisa Donahue, was introduced and welcomed to the Commission. Ms. Donahue was appointed by Supervisor Mashburn and is replacing Commissioner Amy Fabi.

Vice-Chair Estrella-Henderson called for a recognition of retiring Commissioner Hannigan (set to retire at the end of 2024). Ms. Hannigan joined First 5 Solano Commission in January 2014, has been instrumental in the Commission's fund development efforts by establishing relationships with Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Medic Ambulance, and the Syar Foundation, has been a key collaborator for the creation of the First 5 Center model as well as the Early Learning Center, and has acted as an early childhood champion with the Board of Supervisors, many State departments, with the Governor, and many other places. Commissioner Hannigan will be missed!

II. Consent Calendar

Motion:

- A. Approve the October 30, 2024 Commission Meeting Agenda***
- B. Approve the August 21, 2024 Commission Meeting Minutes***

Consent Calendar moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Wanberg

Approved 5-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Estrella-Henderson, Donahue, Hannigan, McElroy, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

III. Election of 2025 First 5 Solano Commission Officers

Motion: Consider approval of the appointment of the appointment of Neely McElroy as 2025 Chair and Lisette Estrella-Henderson as 2025 Vice Chair of the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

Election of 2025 First 5 Solano Commission Officers moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Wanberg

Approved 5-0-0

Yea: Commissioners Estrella-Henderson, Donahue, Hannigan, McElroy, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

IV. Public Hearing: First 5 Solano FY2023/24 Annual Report

[Public Hearing was opened at 3:18 PM]

Motion: Consider approval of the First 5 Solano submission to the First 5 California Children and Families Commission for its FY2023/24 Annual Report, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 130150

First 5 Solano Contract & Program Manager Gene Ibe presented First 5 Solano's FY2023/24 Annual Report. The Annual Report consists of 4 components, including Performance Measures & Impact, Systems Change Update, Fiscal, and Demographics. Reporting performance is based upon answering the questions "How Much Did We Do?" "How Well Did We Do It?" and "Is Anyone Better Off?". During this time frame, there were 11,575 residents served; 5,457 children 0-5, 6,030 parents/caregivers, and 88 providers. The majority of those who received services identified as Hispanic. A total of 1,368 parents attended a Triple P service with pre- and post-participant surveys showing that nearly all parents improved in their parenting skills. Centering the Doula Program saw 14 Solano County African American community members certified as doulas, with 100% of participating community members who attended doula training successfully certified. Help Me Grow Solano assisted 2,836 families through their call line with 4,238 referrals being made to service providers. The Vallejo First 5 Center saw 1,355 individuals (comprising of 642 children and 713 parents/caregivers) participating in at least one class or event. Of those, 333 parents/caregivers received a consultation and were connected with resources and follow-up. Through annual grants, 900 children and 610 parents/caregivers were served, as well as engaged 7 new early care providers and organizations.

Applied Survey Research's Lisa Nichlai presented on the Early Childhood Systems Change Update. F5S uses a strategic framework to improve the lives of young children and their families. Included in this are 4 priority areas: Health and Well-Being, Early Childhood Learning and Development, Family Support and Parent Education, and Systems Change. The goal of the Systems Change priority was to be strong, integrated, sufficiently resourced, and equitable. Systems are strengthened by increasing capacity of providers, systems are integrated by resource sharing, referral, and collaboration, systems

are expanded and sustained with financial resources and policy/legislative change, and systems are equitable by providing resources in most needed areas and prioritizing efforts to address inequities related to race, geography, and socio-economic status.

Public Hearing: First 5 Solano FY2023/24 Annual Report moved by Commissioner Hannigan; Seconded by Commissioner Wanberg

Approved 6-0-0

Yea: Commissioners McElroy, Estrella-Henderson, Donahue, Hannigan, Walker-Gibson, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

V. Public Hearing: FY2023/24 Annual Audit

Motion: Receive the First 5 Solano FY2023-24 Annual Audit

Deputy Director Denise Winters introduced Eide Bailey's James Ramsey, lead partner on First 5 Solano's Annual Audit. While Mr. Ramsey did notate a clean audit, there was one audit exception found, identified as material weakness in procurement. The audit noted that out of 4 contracts that were sampled, none of them had sole source justification in the adjoining file. As a result, management must strengthen its understanding of procurement and review policies to ensure that proper documentation and steps are followed through with each contract.

Public Hearing: First 5 Solano FY2023/24 Annual Audit moved by Commissioner Wanberg; Seconded by Commissioner Hannigan

Approved 5-0-0

Yea: Commissioners McElroy, Estrella-Henderson, Donahue, Hannigan, Wanberg

Nay: None

Abstain: None

[Public Hearing was closed at 4:16 PM]

VI. Policy & Oversight Committee

No meeting to report on.

VII. Executive Director's Report

First 5 Solano Executive Director Michele Harris reported that there is a grant opportunity with Partnership Health Plan for \$140,000. The objective of this grant is to assess the readiness of First 5 Solano and our partners to successfully contract as Enhanced Case

Management and/or Community Health Worker provider. Ms. Harris also reported that Solano HEALs Executive Director Dr. Shandi Fuller attended and presented at the County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC). In addition to presenting on the Solano HEALs model, Dr. Fuller also delivered a Race Equity training.

VIII. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Hannigan thanked fellow Commissioners and staff for their dedication and reiterated how grateful she is to have been on the Commission.

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

The next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting is December 18, 2024 at 3:00PM at 3375 Sonoma Boulevard, Suite 30, Vallejo. Future agenda items: 2025 Legislative Platform, Universal Pre-Kindergarten Impact Study

Adjourn

Vice Chair Estrella-Henderson adjourned the meeting at 4:27 PM.

Caitlin Brakefield, Office Assistant III

Approved:



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

DATE: December 11, 2024

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Lisette Estrella Henderson, Policy and Oversight Committee Chair

SUBJ: **Early Learning Center Allocation Request**

A. Motion: Consider a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee 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 has 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 commission 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 the full launch of the ELC in August of 2026. 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.

Child Start worked with the Office of Head Start to request additional funding for renovations of the classrooms in the amount of \$1,300,000, which is pending, but likely to be funded in early January 2025. In addition, Child Start worked with the

Project Team to review policies for licensure to look at reducing costs. The infant classrooms do not require “tiny” toilets, and the number of playgrounds went from 9 to 7, allowing for rotation of the students as required by licensing.

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

This request is the last request for resources that will come forward to the Commission from the Early Learning Center renovations. The Commission will have approximately \$100,000 remaining from the Program Investment Plan, \$3.37 million that are part of the Reserve Spending Plan.

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.

Committee Discussion:

Juan Cisneros, Executive Director of Child Start, Inc., and operator of the Early Learning Center, was asked to describe the process that Child Start, Terra Realty (project manager), and Landmark (general contractor) underwent to bring the costs down from the budget presented in August 2024. The group went through each cost, alongside the licensure requirements to ensure that each classroom will be at code. Two of the classrooms were designated infant classrooms, not requiring tiny toilets, the number of playgrounds went from 9 to 7, (only children under the same license can be together on a playground) with the knowledge of working within the center to ensure slotted times and requirements are met. Identified partners that will be onsite but not operating a classroom (SCOE), therefore toilets will not be in the classrooms, bringing the costs down.

Commissioner Estrella-Henderson asked: what safety assurances are in place for the Commission not to receive additional asks for funding for this project? Michele Harris, Executive Director, First 5 Solano, answered stating construction begins in January with plans in place. This will be the last allocation and ask for the Early Learning Center proper and the renovations.

[Attachment A: Child Start Memo to First 5 Requesting Additional Funding](#)

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
<hr/>	
Gap in Funds	\$2,614,215



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

DATE: December 18, 2024
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Policy and Oversight Committee
Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Chair
SUBJ: **2025 Annual Review of Commission Policies**

Motion: *Consider a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee 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 the proper use of funding. The track change version and clean version are attached for the Commission's reference and review.

The redlined draft and final version of the First 5 Solano Mini Grants Policy are included as Attachment III B1 and B2 in this report. Staff respectfully requests that the Commission approve the recommended revised policy as presented by the First 5 Solano Children and Families Policy and Oversight Committee.

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.

Attachment: [III B1 2025 Mini Grant Policy-track changes](#)
[III B2 2025 Mini Grant Policy-clean version](#)

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 Pproviding professional development opportunities
 - c. Materials and Equipment: Purchasing materials, equipment, and supplies for program or activity
 - ~~6-d.~~ Awareness Component: Such as sSupporting a time limited program or event
- ~~7-5.~~ 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.
- 8-7. A single agency may not receive more than \$5,000 in any fiscal year.
- ~~9-8.~~ First 5 grantees that are funded for an activity may not use small mini grant funds for that same activity.
- ~~10-9.~~ Requests must be made using an approved application form.
- ~~11-10.~~ 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.

- 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.

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.



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

DATE: December 12, 2024

TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

FROM: Policy and Oversight Committee
Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Chair

SUBJ: **2025 Legislative Platform**

Motion: *Consider a recommendation from the Policy and Oversight Committee to approve the 2025 Legislative Platform*

Staff conducted a review of the Commission’s legislative platform. As part of this process, staff reviewed the Solano County Federal and State 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 ensure that the proposed 2025 Legislative Platform is the 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 2025 legislative platform priorities to ensure there is alignment with the First 5 California and First 5 Association priorities. The review of 2025 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 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 Attachments C1 & C2. Staff are requesting that the Commission consider approving the 2025 Legislative Platform recommended by the First 5 Solano Children and Families Policy and Oversight Committee.

Attachment: [III C1 2025 Legislative Platform-track changes](#)
[III C2 2025 Legislative Platform-clean version](#)



FIRST 5 SOLANO

~~2024~~-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 [2024-2025](#)

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 [2024-2025](#) 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.

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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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.

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- 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.

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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

DATE: December 11, 2024
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Denise Winters, Deputy Director
SUBJ: **Universal Pre-Kindergarten and First 5 California IMPACT project update/information**

UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN

In the First 5 Solano Commission portfolio Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) was awarded for a 3 year funding cycle, FY2023/24 - FY2025/26 for Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) efforts. The primary goal of the UPK grant award is to determine the existing and potential impacts of Universal Pre-Kindergarten expansion on Solano County's Early Learning and Care mixed delivery system, which includes family childcare, private centers, state preschool, and Head Start. SCOE completed an assessment of community needs related to the implementation of UPK. The presentation includes the results of this assessment and the recommendations for year 2 implementation. SCOE continues to provide services to our community of providers, families, and centers, bridging partnerships and supporting business plans to embrace Pre-Kindergarten activities throughout Solano County.

IMPACT LEGACY

Solano County Office of Education is funded directly by First 5 California for the First 5 California IMPACT Legacy program. The program has 44 sites that have fulfilled the quality improvement goals that were established during the FY2018-FY2023 funding cycle, with providers and the Solano County Office of Education quality improvement coach(es).

[Attachment A:](#) UPK Presentation

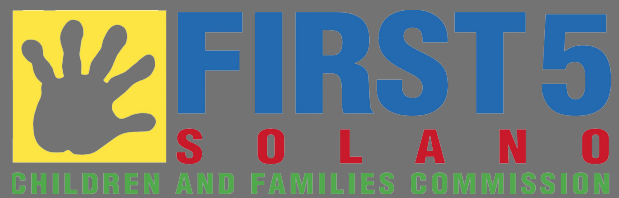
[Attachment B:](#) IMPACT Legacy Program Update



Solano County
Office of Education

UPK Expansion Impact Study Results

December 18, 2024



Quality Counts



in Solano Early Care
& Education



@solanocoe



Purpose of the Study

SCOE sought to inquire and analyze from the perspective of providers:

- ✓ Perception of the increase in children's access to PK
- ✓ The impact on the Early Learning and Care (ELC) mixed-delivery system (that is family childcare, private childcare centers, and state preschool programs)
- ✓ Existing impacts of UPK expansion on the ELC setting and families
- ✓ Potential impacts of UPK expansion on the ELC setting and families



Question Review

Summary



Question development in collaboration with our foundational partners:

40 - 43 question survey (some questions were only visible depending on respondent answer to previous question)

- ✓ 6 demographic questions
- ✓ 11 facility questions (strengths, description, total children served, hiring scenario (challenges), number of staff, effects of hiring on enrollment, types of classes, average salary)
- ✓ 14 questions on the expansion of UPK (impact on services, anticipated changes, partnering with local school district, support from SCOE, parent/family needs)
- ✓ 6 questions for staff (teaching assistants, paraprofessionals)

Response statistics

Outreach was to **356 unique email addresses** data sources are:

1. California Department of Social Services (CDSS) (email address of license holders in Solano County) and
2. From SCOE's Early Learning team membership lists

Email outreach statistics include:

- ✓ Delivery rate of **98.6%**
- ✓ Open rate of **66%**

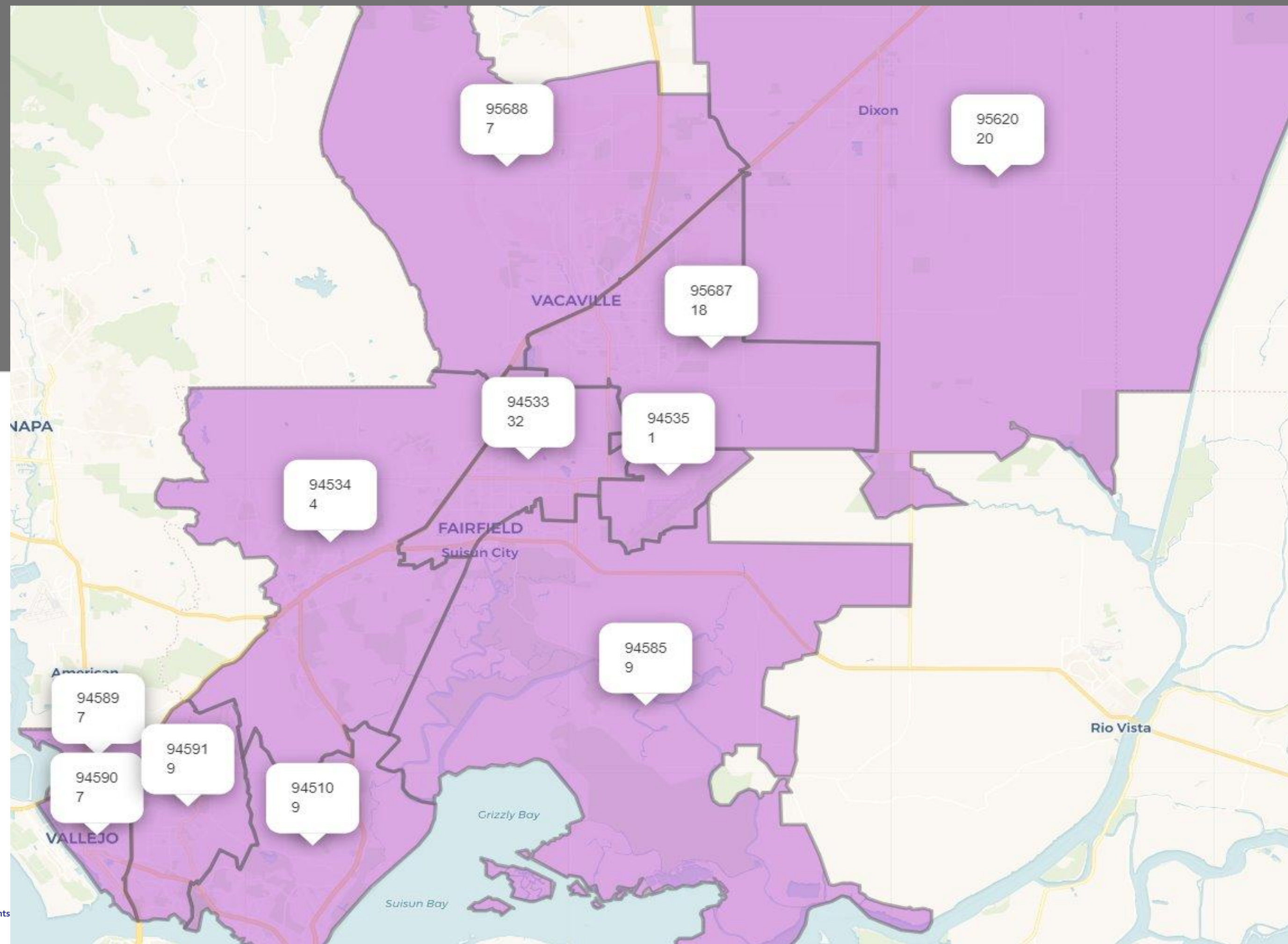
Responses:

- ✓ **113** English survey responses
 - ✓ **10** Spanish survey responses
 - ✓ **12** unique one-on-one participants (9 English, 3 Spanish)
- } **34.5%** combined response rate



Outreach conducted
in English and
Spanish

Respondent location Map



Respondent enrollment totals based on setting type

Of **46** respondents from home-based sites, the median enrollment is **12 children**.

Of **77** respondents from center-based sites, the median enrollment is **42 children**.

Study Findings



Findings

Top 4 Themes

Based on the Interview/focus group data set corroborated by the survey free response data



Family and Child Needs



Teacher Support



Information



Staffing

Major Theme #1

Family and Child Needs

Emphasis on the importance family decision-making in the process of selecting a childcare program best aligned with varying student needs such as curriculum, classroom size, inclusion, accessibility needs, and equity.

Major Theme #2

Teacher Support

Highlighted professional learning, teacher contracting, qualifications, teacher experience, and collaboration.

Major Theme #3

Information

Importance of clarifying the differences of TK and UPK to families, and supporting families with understanding what TK programs offer.

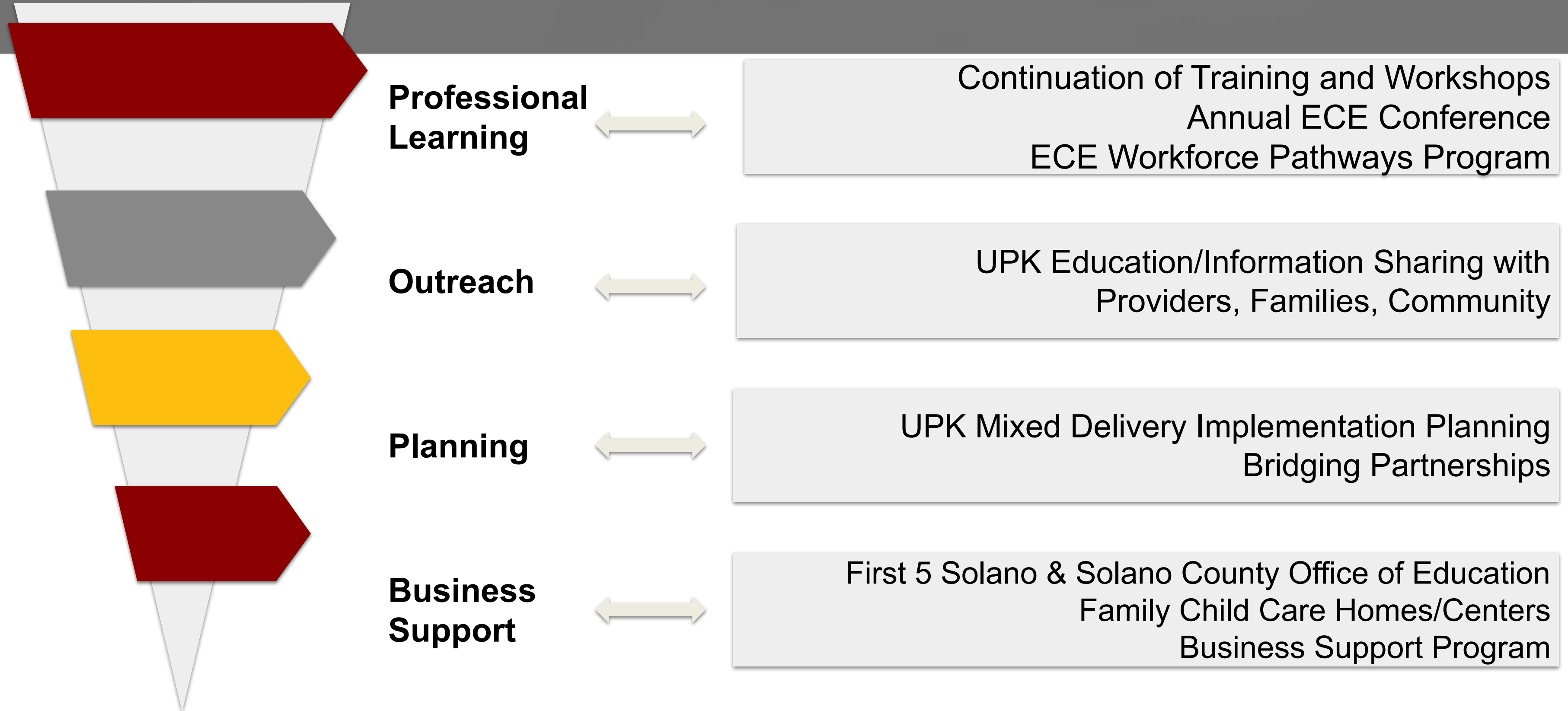
Major Theme #4

Staffing

Emphasized need for support for:

- finding, hiring, and retaining staff,
- preschool classrooms being eliminated,
- teacher job loss,
- classroom consolidation,
- loss of teacher hours,
- less students in government supported programs like Head Start.

Leading Forward



Thank You

Lisa Eckhoff
Senior Director, Early Learning

Dr. Tacey Rodgers
Director, Assessment,
Research, and Evaluation





First 5 California – Solano County Office of Education 2023-2024 IMPACT Legacy Summary Annual Funding - \$398,524

- 44 Family Childcare and Alternative Sites were served in IMPACT Legacy (total 80 Quality Counts Solano sites)
- 44 IMPACT sites received onsite practice-based coaching and technical assistance
- 1537 hours of coaching were provided across Quality Counts Solano

IMPACT Quality Improvement Goals focused on:

1. Environments
2. Social-Emotional Development
3. Effective Teacher Child Interactions
4. Family Engagement
5. Curriculum Development

- 44 IMPACT sites fulfilled their quality improvement goals established by the providers in collaboration with their assigned SCOE quality improvement coach.
- 44 sites received materials/equipment/supplies based on established site and classroom quality improvement goals totaling \$44,000.
- Additional support included providing 40 sites with Language & Literacy Curriculum Kits. Materials in the kit included diverse books, sequencing stories, puppets, puzzles, and fine motor resources.

Additional Quality Counts Solano/IMPACT Legacy activities included:

- Improved access to professional development, including increased opportunity for virtual/hybrid and in person training, translation support for Spanish speaking providers and increased distribution of print materials in Spanish.
 - *Training focus: Ages and Stages Developmental Screening with embedded coaching, Pillars of Wellness for Educator Resilience (specifically designed to cultivate educator self-awareness, increase emotional intelligence and equip participants with stress management tools), and CLASS Teacher-Child Interactions, Language and Literacy in the Curriculum and Enriching Family Partnerships.*
- Quality Counts Solano Early Childhood Education Conference provided workshops on the importance of play in learning, early childhood curriculum, inclusion, social emotional development, and Universal Design for Learning.
- Expanded systems alignment with other SCOE Early Learning Programs including the UPK Mixed Delivery Workgroup, Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program (professional development, early childhood mental health consultation, and targeted coaching on inclusive practices) and the Solano Child Care Planning Council.

Date: December 11, 2024
TO: First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission
FROM: Michele Harris, Executive Director
SUBJ: Executive Director’s Report for December 18, 2024



2025 First 5 Solano Calendar Distribution: The 2025 parent calendar production and distribution are complete. This community-focused calendar highlights Solano County children and families, offering an equity-focused page, monthly themes, quick tips for parents/caregivers, fun activities, and a resource page linking families to local services. First 5 Solano is also continuing the recommended monthly book and will distribute the books upon request to community partners and the First 5 Center. Last year’s children’s coloring calendar was a success and will continue for another year. The activity calendar is coupled with the First 5 Solano informative calendar and comes with a 4 pack of crayons. As with each year, the Calendar has been distributed through the schools to every

incoming TK & K student. The calendar theme, pictures and purpose also align with First 5 Solano’s newsletter and social media outreach. The calendar presentation is included as Attachment A to this report.

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 \$15,000. 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

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 First 5 Solano staff, is leading the website redesign for the agency. The revamped website is scheduled for implementation in the summer of 2025.

First 5 Association 205 Annual Summit: The First 5 Association is hosting their 2025 Annual Summit in San Diego on February 10 – 12, 2025. The featured speaker is Isabell Hau, Executive Director of Stanford Accelerator for Learning, with the event's kickoff session, "How AI Impacts the Early Childhood Development Field and What to Prepare For." Sessions include Fiscal Workgroup Meeting, The Future of Medi-Cal: Updates and Innovations, Investments and Evaluations, Empowering Early Childhood: Movements and Power Building Through Investments and Evaluation, to name a few. First 5 Solano, in partnership with Applied Survey Research, might present an Early Childhood System of Care Federal Grant proposal initiative at this conference. Denise Winters, Toya Adams, of First 5 Solano Susan Brutschy, and Lisa Colvig-Niclai, of ASR, will be attending.

Diversity Equity and Inclusion training: On December 5, 2024, Navalta Media facilitated a session with 15 participants from the Children's Network and Fairfield -Suisun Unified School District Family Resource Center. The session focused on enhancing participants' understanding of DEI principles and equipping them with strategies for fostering inclusivity in their programs and with the people they serve. Key discussions centered around defining DEI concepts, addressing unconscious biases, and creating an action plan to make a difference in the community. Participants engaged in group discussions, interactive exercises, and action planning. These activities encouraged sharing experiences, identifying barriers to services, and drafting actionable steps to integrate DEI practices into daily operations. The training highlighted the importance of culturally responsive practices to build trust and meet diverse community needs. The training was sponsored by First 5 Solano as part of its system change equity initiative.

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 sources 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, co-hosted 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, services and leadership. 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 Medi-Cal 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 visited an existing School-Based Health Center in Oakland on December 6th with consultants who have successfully operationalized similar facilities. The 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.

Kaiser Permanente Napa Solano 2025 Grant RFA: On December 18th, First 5 Solano staff will attend the Kaiser Permanente Napa Solano Area 2025 Grants Program and Sponsorship Orientation. In previous years, the Commission's staff has successfully applied for Kaiser Grant funding, receiving annual awards of up to \$25,000. The grant funding aims to improve access to care for underrepresented populations and strengthen programs that address the health needs of Solano County's vulnerable residents. In prior years, this funding supported family navigation services at the Vallejo First 5 Center.

For the upcoming grant cycle, First 5 Solano intends to submit an application to continue funding the Center's Family Navigation resources and support services for the families it serves.

Sign on to support IMPACT Legacy Letter for First 5 Association: The First 5 IMPACT Legacy program (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) has been instrumental in supporting high-quality early learning environments across California. This funding ensures that children enter school equipped with the skills, knowledge, and dispositions necessary for success.

In the Bay Area, First 5 IMPACT Legacy funding has been critical in advancing continuous quality improvement (CQI) in early care and education settings. With these resources, counties have been able to provide thousands of hours of professional development, deliver coaching to early educators, and support family engagement in early literacy and school readiness activities.

The proposed actions will ensure continuity in supporting early educators, children, and families. Over years of investment, First 5 Commissions and their partners have developed effective mechanisms to deliver quality early learning experiences. A sudden decrease in funding could undermine these efforts and negatively impact vulnerable populations.

By maintaining and providing sufficient notice of any future funding adjustments, First 5 California can enable counties to strategize and implement sustainable transitions, minimizing disruption to critical early childhood services. This support letter is included as Attachment B.

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 the 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.

Caymus Vineyard Donation toward Rise Vallejo (ELC): As part of the ongoing funding efforts for the Rise Vallejo Early Learning Center, Commissioner Erin Hannigan facilitated a meeting and tour of the First 5 Vallejo Center, which led to a generous donation from Caymus Vineyards for the Rise Vallejo Early Learning Center. Child Start accepted the donation on behalf of the center.

The funding will contribute to the renovation of the shuttered elementary school, bringing the Rise Vallejo Leadership Team closer to closing the project funding gap. A copy of the appreciation letter is enclosed as Attachment C.

Keep People Housed – Solano program: As part of the Board of Supervisor's Community Investment Fund, First 5 Solano staff is currently overseeing, The Keep People Housed – Solano program (KPH). KPH launched on November 18, receiving 80 applications and over 100 phone calls within the first three days. During this initial period, United Way California Capital Region was able to issue a check that prevented a single mother from being evicted, demonstrating the immediate impact of the program. This initiative is a partnership between CAP Solano JPA, All Home, Season of Sharing, and United Way California Capital Region, aimed at preventing homelessness by offering financial aid and housing stabilization services to residents at risk of losing their housing. Funded through public-private partnerships, the program assists with essential expenses such as rent, utilities, and security deposits, while also providing legal referrals and access to community resources. Eligible applicants must have a household income at or below 50% of the Area Median Income and be at risk of housing loss. Applications are free and can be submitted through the Bay Area Community Services (BACS) portal at www.kphsolano.org. A press release is included as Attachment D.

United Way Capital Region Letter of Support: First 5 Solano provided a letter of support to the City of Sacramento on behalf of United Way California Capital Region. The letter of support outlined United Way California Capital Region (UWCCR), highlighting their valuable contributions as a partner in the Keep People Housed-Solano initiative. The letter underscores UWCCR's critical role in providing rent administrative services, housing stabilization case management, and other community support activities that directly benefit individuals and families in Solano County. Based on UWCCR's proven expertise and collaborative approach, staff recommends issuing a letter of support for UWCCR. The letter emphasizes their critical contributions to addressing housing challenges and their broader impact on improving community outcomes. The letter of support is included as Attachment E.

[Attachment A:](#) First 5 Solano Calendar Presentation

[Attachment B:](#) IMPACT Legacy

[Attachment C:](#) Caymus Appreciation Letter

[Attachment D:](#) Keep People Housed Press Release

[Attachment E:](#) United Way Capital Region Letter of Support

2025

First 5 Solano Calendars



1

Our Mission, Vision and Values



FIRST 5 SOLANO Children and Families Commission

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EARLY YEARS: A child's brain undergoes an extraordinary period of growth from birth to age three, forming over a million neural connections each second. By the age of five, 90% of a child's brain development occurs. These first five years are vital for a child's health, well-being, and overall life trajectory. Brain development is influenced by various factors, including relationships, experiences, and environment. Early experiences can significantly shape brain development into adulthood. Positive early experiences are crucial for children's later success in school, the workplace, and the community.



OUR 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.



OUR VISION

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



OUR VALUES

Equity, Accessibility, Sustainability, Advocacy, Collaboration, Respect



3375 Sonoma Blvd., Ste. 30
Vallejo, CA 94590
707-784-1332 | WWW.FIRST5SOLANO.ORG



It's All About the Kids!

2

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion




CELEBRATE UNITY
Embrace Cultural Diversity



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



move

3

Monthly Themes



JANUARY
Empower your child. The Positive Parenting Path.

Positive Parenting is about nurturing a child's growth through love, guidance, and encouragement, empowering them to thrive with confidence and joy.

Quick Tip
Celebrate your children and milestones with yourself!
A little self-compassion, positive thinking, making space, and setting a goal can make a difference.

Have Fun!
Start a new year with family and friends by watching the movie *How to Train Your Dragon*.
Reading prompts: How does the dragon respond to the people? How does the dragon feel about the people? How does the dragon feel about the people?

JUNE
Garden of Learning: Preparing for School Readiness

Becoming school ready is key to helping your child develop important skills like communication, problem-solving, and social interaction. It's important that the program and activities are fun, engaging, and meaningful, and provide a strong foundation for the child's success in school.

Quick Tip
Turn everyday situations into learning opportunities by practicing self-care skills like brushing, washing, and drying up their hands.
This includes counting on their fingers and identifying colors while brushing teeth.

Have Fun!
Turn everyday situations into learning opportunities by practicing self-care skills like brushing, washing, and drying up their hands.
This includes counting on their fingers, identifying colors while brushing teeth, and practicing self-care skills like brushing, washing, and drying up their hands.

SEPTEMBER
Rooted in Wellness: Cultivating Self-care

Self-care is important because it helps maintain physical, mental, and emotional wellness by reducing stress and promoting happiness. Using a calendar to plan activities and routines can ensure covered quality of life, which can help you and your children feel more prepared for each other.

Quick Tip
Create a routine where you and your child enjoy activities together like reading, playing a game, or going for a walk.
This quality time helps build a strong relationship and strengthens your bond while encouraging healthy habits and self-care.

Have Fun!
Set up a "Wellness" station with your child. Encourage them to identify feelings, needs, desires, and goals.
Share a few minutes each day to practice the skills you've learned together. Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings in a safe and supportive environment.

4

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

Children begin developing the emotional skills needed to identify, express, and manage their feelings the moment they are born. Children can express their emotions through facial expressions, body language, behavior, and play. Use the children on this page to help your child learn to name and describe their emotions. As a parent, you play a vital role in teaching your child to identify, understand, and express their feelings.



DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES
Growing, Learning and

Infants and children reach developmental milestones through play, learning, speaking, acting and movement. Milestones change for each age group and serve as a foundation for future growth and learning. Remember that each child develops at their own pace. Don't be alarmed if their development takes a somewhat different path. Wondering if your child is on track? Visit www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actives/earlychildhood for more information.

- BIRTH - 2 MONTHS**
 - Cries, makes gurgling sounds
 - Turns head toward sounds
- 4 MONTHS**
 - Reaches for objects
 - Reaches out, grasps, and brings objects to the mouth
- 6 MONTHS**
 - Reaches to sounds by making sounds
 - Reaches for objects
 - Reaches to take an object from your hand
- 9 MONTHS**
 - Understands "no"
 - Understands "up"
- 12 MONTHS**
 - Understands "no" and "bye-bye"
 - Understands "up" and "down"
- 18 MONTHS**
 - Understands "no" and "bye-bye"
 - Understands "up" and "down"
- 2 YEARS**
 - Reaches for things in a container when asked
 - Follows simple instructions
- 3 YEARS**
 - Follows instructions with 2 or 3 steps
 - Takes and brings the object to the intended goal of the task
 - Can find an object in a container using 2-3 instructions
- 4 YEARS**
 - Tells stories
 - Can say first and last name
 - Knows some basic rules of grammar and is correctly using "I", "me", "you"
- 5 YEARS**
 - Speaks very clearly
 - Can write and write
 - Can follow some day directions
 - Knows and can use some

Quick Tips, Resources & more for Parents & Caregivers

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Community resources are essential in helping families access assistance and expand their support to meet their needs. Community resources help build stronger, more resilient individuals and communities.

FOOD	PARKS & REC	OTHER
<p>Food is Free Bay Area https://ffbayarea.org</p> <p>Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano https://www.foodbankcs.org</p> <p>Solano County WIC – Women, Infants and Children Vallejo 707-553-5381 Fairfield 707-784-2200 Vacaville 707-469-4555 Dixon 707-678-0717</p>	<p>Solano Land Trust www.solanolandtrust.org</p> <p>Play 4 All Park www.play4allvacaville.org</p> <p>Play 4 All Park in Vacaville</p> <p>Play 4 All Park in Fairfield</p> <p>Patwino Worrtta Koolol Dini Open Space Park in Fairfield</p>	<p>First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission www.first5solano.org 707-784-1332</p> <p>First 5 Center 3375 Sonoma Blvd., Vallejo CA 94590 707-784-1240</p> <p>Triple P – Positive Parenting Program Solano Triple P www.solanotriplep.com</p> <p>Help Me Grow www.helpmegrow.solano.org 844-501-KIDS (5437)</p> <p>Solano Cares https://www.solanocares.org/</p>
HEALTH	LIBRARY	VOLUNTEER
<p>Solano Family Health Services Fairfield 707-784-2010 Vacaville 707-469-4640 Vallejo 707-553-5509</p> <p>Solano County Dental Clinics Fairfield 707-784-2120 Vacaville 707-469-4670 Vallejo 707-784-2120</p> <p>Solano Connex https://solanconnex.org/</p> <p>Childhood Immunization Resource www.solanovaxfacts.com</p> <p>Solano County Library www.solanolibary.com</p>	<p>CVNL Center of Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership www.volunteernow.org/solano-county 707-784-3121</p> <p>Salvation Army 586 E Wigeon Way, Suisun City, CA 94585 707-439-7880</p>	
<h3>HOUSING PROGRAMS</h3> <p>Resource Connect Solano https://www.resourceconnectsolano.org/ 707-652-7311</p> <p>Solano County Housing Authority and Section 8 Program 707-449-5675</p>		

November 13, 2024

Katie Albright, J.D., Chair
First 5 California
2389 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833

Shana Hazan, Vice Chair
First 5 California
2389 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: First 5 IMPACT Legacy

To the First 5 California Commission,

We appreciate First 5 California's funding support of the First 5 IMPACT Legacy (Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive) efforts that aim to support high-quality early learning settings and approaches to ensure more of California's children enter school with the skills, knowledge, and dispositions necessary to be successful.

In the Bay Area counties, this funding has been critical to our work to support the continuous quality improvement efforts of early care and education and other early learning settings. The funding has helped each county offer thousands of hours of professional development and training opportunities, provide coaching to hundreds of early educators, and foster family engagement in young children's literacy and school readiness activities.

With the decline in state tobacco tax revenue impacting each First 5 Commission and the state's shifts in financial support for the statewide quality rating and improvement system, many counties rely more than ever on the First 5 IMPACT Legacy funding to support their quality improvement efforts. As counties have already begun planning for next fiscal year, we urge the First 5 California Commission to maintain its current level of funding support for the First 5 IMPACT Legacy program and honor its original intent to renew for two additional years (FY 2025-26 & 2026-27), and to provide local county-level partners with at least 12 months of notice if in the future the funding for the program will be decreased.

First 5 Commissions at the county level and their county partners have spent years building effective mechanisms to support early educators in delivering quality learning experiences. It will take time and careful planning to sustain these efforts and ensure the workforce and families are not negatively impacted if there is a decrease in First 5 California support.

Sincerely,

Bay Area Region First 5 Executive Directors

Kristin Spanos, Executive Director First 5 Alameda, kristin.spanos@first5alameda.org
Ruth Fernandez, Executive Director First 5 Contra Costa, rfernandez@first5coco.org
Maria Niggle, Executive Director First 5 Marin, Maria@first5marin.org

Francine Rodd, Executive Director First 5 Monterey, francine@first5monterey.org
Ashley Walker, Executive Director First 5 Napa, ashley@first5napa.org
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Jennifer Cloyd, Executive Director First 5 Santa Clara, Jennifer.cloyd@first5kids.org
Michele Harris, Executive Director First 5 Solano, mdharris@solanocounty.com
Angie Dillon-Shore, Executive Director First 5 Sonoma, adillonshore@first5sonomacounty.org

cc: Jackie Thu-Huong Wong, Executive Director, First 5 California
Avo Makdessian, Executive Director, First 5 Association



November 14, 2024

Mr. Chuck Wagner
Caymus Vineyards
Post Office Box 268
Rutherford, CA 94573

Dear Mr. Wagner,

On behalf of Child Start, the Solano County Supervisor Erin Hannigan, and the First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous donation of \$50,000 to support the renovation of the Vallejo Early Learning Center. This innovative project converts a shuttered elementary school into a safe, developmentally appropriate early care and education center for over 200 infants, toddlers and preschoolers in an under-resourced community.

Child Start – the provider of Head Start services throughout Solano and Napa Counties, has joined local, state, and federal partners to create and operate the Vallejo Early Learning Center. Together, we have committed to opening the center in August 2025, providing comprehensive early childhood services and family support to prepare young children for kindergarten and beyond. Your donation supports this effort, which we know will create a positive, lasting impact on the lives of children and families enrolled at the center.

Your commitment, both personally and of Caymus Vineyards with the Wagner Family of Wines, to Solano County and its residents is deeply appreciated. Your efforts in the community are clearly enhancing the quality of life throughout Solano County.

Thank you again for your generosity and support.

Sincerely,

Juan Cisneros
Executive Director
Child Start, Inc.

Erin Hannigan
Solano County Supervisor
District 1

Michele Harris
Executive Director
First 5 Solano Children and
Families Commission

Charitable Contribution Acknowledgement: Child Start, Inc. is a tax-exempt entity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The agency's tax identification number is 68-044-2009. As the recipient of your charitable contribution, Child Start, Inc. is required to inform you that no goods or services were provided by the agency in consideration of your gift. Please keep this letter with your tax records, as your charitable deduction may be disallowed if you are unable to provide this acknowledgement to the IRS upon request.

Operating Head Start in Napa and Solano Counties

439 Devlin Road Napa, California 94558-6274
Tel 707/252-8931 Fax 707/252-2301



County Administrator's Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Matthew A. Davis, Principal Management Analyst / PIO / Legislative Affairs
(707) 784-6111 | MADavis@SolanoCounty.com

County, CAP Solano, partners with United Way to launch "Keep People Housed – Solano," program

November 20, 2024

SOLANO COUNTY – Solano County and Community Action Partnership (CAP) Solano Joint Powers Authority (JPA) are proud to announce a new partnership with United Way California Capital Region to help prevent homelessness in our communities. Together, they have launched "Keep People Housed – Solano," a program designed to provide critical resources and support to Solano County residents at risk of losing their housing.

Through this program, eligible households can receive flexible financial assistance to cover essential expenses, including rent, utilities, security deposits, and moving costs. Participants will also have access to legal referrals and housing stabilization services tailored to help residents maintain their housing and achieve long-term financial stability.

"Housing stability is important for people's well-being, especially at this time of year when work slows down because of the weather," says Michele Harris, Executive Director of First 5 Solano. "This program provides valuable support to help Solano County residents stay in their homes. We are proud to offer this help to our community."

The program is funded through a public-private partnership, including from All Home, Season of Sharing, CAP Solano JPA and Community Investment Funds allocated from the Solano County Board of Supervisors. The adoption of the Keep People Housed model in Solano County is part of All Home's strategy to expand a growing regional network of targeted prevention programs in the Bay Area Counties.

HOW IT WORKS

Solano County residents can apply through the Bay Area Community Services (BACS) online application portal. The program is completely free, and eligibility is determined by the following criteria:

- n Be a Solano County resident
- n Household income must be at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI)
- n Demonstrate a risk of homelessness or housing loss due to recent financial or other hardships

SERVICES OFFERED

Accepted applicants will receive rapid and flexible financial assistance combined with hands-on, individualized housing stabilization services. These may include:

- n Assistance in developing household budgets and housing stability plans
- n Problem-solving and referrals to community services, such as workforce development, childcare, health



County Administrator's Office

or mental health resources, and domestic violence support
n Legal assistance for eviction prevention

TAKE ACTION TODAY

Residents facing housing insecurity are encouraged to apply through the BACS portal as soon as possible. For more information about Keep People Housed – Solano and to determine eligibility, visit www.kphsolano.org.

DOWNLOAD THE FLYER

n Click [HERE](#) to download and share the flyer in English
n Click [HERE](#) to download and share the flyer in Spanish

#

COMMISSIONERS

Neely McElroy

Chair

Lisette Estrella-Henderson

Lisa Donahue

Erin Hannigan

Tiffanee Jones

Roger Robinson

Nimat Shakoor-Grantham

Nikila Walker-Gibson

Tyffany Wanberg

December 3, 2024

City of Sacramento
Office of Innovation and Economic Development
Ya-Yin Isle, City Housing Manager
915 I St
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Reference for United Way California Capital Region

Dear Ya-Yin,

This letter serves as a reference for United Way California Capital Region (UWCCR), with whom First 5 Solano Childrens and Family Commission has had the pleasure of partnering with on the Keep People Housed-Solano.

STAFF

Michele Harris
Executive Director

Denise Winters
Deputy Director

Kwiana Algeré
Program Manager

Gene Ibe
Program Manager

Toya Adams
Program Manager

Yuliana Moreno
Program Manager

Alicia Gutierrez
Health Education Specialist

Caitlin Brakefield
Office Assistant III

As part of the project, UWCCR provides managing rental payments, engaging landlords, and ensuring compliance with program guidelines. UWCCR's attention to detail ensures timely and accurate disbursement of funds, which is vital to the program's success. Additionally, UWCCR delivers Housing Stabilization Case Management Services by offering personalized support to the community. This includes housing navigation, budgeting assistance, tenant education, and connections to essential supportive services. These efforts directly contribute to successful transitions into stable housing and long-term housing retention.

The United Way California Capital Region is a partner in our community, working to improve outcomes for individuals and families in Solano County. UWCCR has successfully joined with First 5 Solano to address disparities and improve outcomes for children and their families in Solano County through food security, systems change efforts as well as community collaborations.

I highly recommend UWCCR for projects requiring Rent Administrative Services and Housing Stabilization Case Management Services. UWCCR's expertise and collaborative approach make them an invaluable partner in addressing housing challenges. If you have further questions about UWCCR's performance or impact, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Michele Harris
Executive Director



First 5 Solano's Equity Statement

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