



***March 27, 2024 COMMISSION MEETING
AGENDA PACKET ATTACHMENTS***

Attachments:

ITEM 3: Consent Agenda

- a) January 24, 2024 Minutes
- b) Staff Memo and Resolution 2024-01
- c) Staff Memo and Home Visiting Contract with First 5 Santa Barbara

ITEM 4: Annual Reports – Staff Memo

- First 5 CA Annual Report FY 2022-23 (attached separately) For online access, go to: [First 5 California 2022-23 Annual Report](#)
- First 5 SLO County Annual Evaluation Report 2022-23 (attached separately)

ITEM 5: Staff Memo re: Contract Renewals (Contract Drafts attached separately)

ITEM 6: Strategic Plan

- Staff Memo
- Draft Plan Narrative

**FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION**

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 24, 2024

Current Commissioners Present

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Penny Borenstein, M.D. (Chair – see Item 4) | SLO County Public Health Department |
| Dawn Ortiz-Legg (Vice Chair – see Item 4) | SLO County Board of Supervisors |
| Linda Belch | Department of Social Services |
| Patty Clarkson, Ed.D. | Early Care & Educ. Planning Council |
| Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia, Ed.D. | Community at Large |
| James Tedford, M.D. | Medical Representative (AAP, Ch 2) |
| Alison Ventura, Ph.D. | Community at Large |
| Bob Watt | Community at Large |

Current Commissioners Absent

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| James Brescia, Ed.D. | SLO County Office of Education |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|

Staff Present

First 5 staff: Wendy Wendt, Jason Wells, Misty Livengood
Commission Counsel: Natalie Frye-Laacke

Call to Order

Vice Chair Borenstein called the meeting to order at 3:11 PM.

ITEM 1 – Commissioner Announcements and Updates

Commissioner Watt announced the opening of the Child Advocacy Center (location at 3220 South Higuera in San Luis Obispo, upstairs from First 5 office). Commissioner Borenstein explained that the CAC is designed to provide trauma-informed, single-location wrap-around services for children who are involved as victims in child abuse-related court cases. Commissioners Ortiz-Legg and Ruvalcaba-Heredia underscored the importance of this new resource.

Commissioner Borenstein announced a home visiting partnership grant between SLO and San Cruz County Maternal Child Adolescent Health programs totaling \$350,000. This is through the California Home Visiting CHVP Innovation 2.0 opportunity. In part the funding will support data analyst staffing for all local home visiting programs based at County Public Health.

Commissioner Belch announced that she is transitioning to a new role at County Department of Social Services as the Division Head for Adult and Homeless Services.

ITEM 2 - Public Comment – Items not on the agenda

Katie Kleinsmith, a CAPSLO Health Wellness Educator on special assignment with the County Office of Education “Community Schools” initiative, described this new effort, which is in the planning grant stage at Paso Robles, Shandon and San Miguel school districts. The initiative is meant to build a “whole child-whole family” focus on school campuses, including reimagining school campuses as community hubs for family engagement, community resources, and enhanced learning services.

ITEM 3 (ACTION ITEM) - Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of the December 6, 2023 Minutes
- b. Approval of FY23-24 Q2 Financial Report
- c. Confirm BOS Commissioner Appointment – Dawn Ortiz -Legg (one-year term Jan-Dec 2024)
- d. Approval of Engagement Letter with Moss Levy Hartzheim for 2023-24 Audit Services

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Watt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ventura and passed unanimously.

ITEM 4 (ACTION ITEM) - Election of 2024 Officers: Chair and Vice Chair

Commissioner Borenstein informed that Commissioner Brescia has indicated that he is not planning to continue as Chair, a role he held through 2023. Executive Director Wendy Wendt reminded Commissioners of their annual responsibility (per ordinance and bylaws) to decide on a Chair and Vice Chair. No additional formal parameters are spelled out – i.e. any Commissioner could fill either role.

Commissioner Ortiz-Legg indicated that she would be willing to step into the Vice Chair role. Commissioner Borenstein offered to assume the Chair role for one year.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Ortiz-Legg made a motion to approve Penny Borenstein as the 2024 Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watt and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Borenstein made a motion to approve Commissioner Ortiz-Legg as the 2024 Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Watt and passed unanimously.

ITEM 5 (ACTION ITEM) – Process for At-Large Commissioner Selection, Identification of At-Large Nominating Committee Members

Ms. Wendt introduced this agenda item. She reminded Commissioners of bylaw changes last year that instituted 1) term limits for some Commissioner seats, including the at-large representatives, medical representatives, and the Early Care and Education Planning Council representative; 2) an opt-in for a second term among the aforementioned Commissioner seats

whose members are in good-standing; and 2) staggered term renewals, initiated by assigning one of the current at-large representatives (Commissioner Watt) to a final one-year term.

The last at-large recruitment process took place in 2019, at which time all three current at-large representatives were selected. In 2023, all three at-large reps opted in for an additional term. Now, with Commissioner Watt's end-of-term approaching, a selection process for one new at-large representative is required. Staff is requesting the Commission to identify an ad hoc nominating committee to participate in this process – including interviewing candidates and forwarding a formal nomination to the full Commission (final approval rests with the County Board of Supervisors).

Commissioners Watt and Ventura indicated interest in serving on this ad hoc committee. Commissioner Watt added that he looks forward to the Commission bringing on fresh eyes, experience, and perspective.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Ortiz-Legg moved to appoint Commissioners Watt and Ventura to an ad hoc nominating committee for At-Large Commissioner selection. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ventura and passed unanimously.

ITEM 6 – Strategic Planning

Part A: Action to Confirm Non-Renewals

Associate Director Jason Wells introduced this item. At the December 2023 Commission meeting, Commissioners opted to take a formal vote on contract non-renewal recommendations brought forward by staff. The following five current contracts are not being recommended for funding in the next strategic plan: Family Resilience Partnership (LINK), Early Childhood Nature-based Experiences (SLO Botanical Garden), Basic Needs Support (CAPSLO), California State Preschools (SLOCOE), and Home Visiting Coordination (County Department of Public Health).

Public Comment:

Lisa Fraser, Executive Director of the LINK/Center for Family Strengthening, voiced concern regarding the end of the Family Resilience Partnership contract, explaining that the families being served by a dedicated early childhood family advocate rely on the support, and this is a key identified area and population of need in North County. These family advocates are a core part of the SAFE System of Care.

Commissioner Belch explained that she is in support of not continuing the LINK contract, not because it is not a valuable service, but because the funding as contracted through the First 5 COVID-specific RFP was intended for situational relief during the pandemic. The integration within the SAFE System of Care is indeed important, and Commissioner Belch emphasized the opportunity for a strategic conversation with the broader SAFE consortium to determine how best to serve the 0-5 population countywide within the SAFE System.

Commissioners Ortiz-Legg and Borenstein inquired whether Cal AIM funds can/are supports for SAFE System of Care. Ms. Wendt agreed that several of the Cal AIM elements tie in with SAFE work – the new Community Health Worker role, for example. She added that overall, First 5 looks forward to participating in working with SAFE partners to take a system-wide look at 0-5 population access to SAFE system of care, and to determine where within that system First 5 investments are best deployed.

Non-renewal votes were taken in the following order:

Resilient Families (LINK) – Commissioner Ortiz-Legg moved to not renew; Commissioner Ventura seconded. Commissioner Watt recused due to conflict of interest. Motion passed 7:0:1.

Home Visiting Coordination (County Public Health) -- Commissioner Ortiz-Legg moved to not renew; Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia seconded. Commissioner Borenstein recused due to conflict of interest. Motion passed 7:0:1.

CA State Preschools (SLO County Office of Ed.), Basic Needs Support (CAPSLO), Early Childhood Nature-Based Experiences (SLO Botanical Garden) -- Commissioner Ortiz-Legg moved to not renew; Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia seconded. Motion passed 8:0.

Part B: Discussion/Commission Authorization to Develop Contract Renewals

Mr. Wells updated Commissioners that BABES is now being recommended for full renewal with a new two-year contract. Staff and BABES partners remain committed to continuing to strategize on long-term sustainability planning. At the December meeting, Commissioners voted to authorize staff to develop contract drafts for other recommended contract renewals. Today, staff requested the Commission to take action to add BABES to this list.

Commissioner Ortiz-Legg moved to authorize staff to develop a contract with the County Public Health Department for continued support of the BABES program. Commissioner Ventura seconded the motion. Motion passed 7:0:1 (Commissioner Borenstein recused).

Part C: Staff Update on New Investment Area Planning

Ms. Wendt provided the following updates:

- PARENT EDUCATION/CONNECTION
 - First 5 is scheduling an initial strategic conversation with SAFE partners from County Behavioral Health, Social Services, LINK and CAPSLO to engage in a deeper dive assessment of 0-5 services – current and future.
 - First 5 staff are tracking agency and parent interest and momentum related to family education/connection, will develop concrete recommendations for potential investment and decision-making mechanisms to be presented at future Commission meetings.
- CHILD CARE/EARLY LEARNING

- The Early Care and Education Planning Council anticipates providing advisory guidance to First 5 on optimal investment/s as part of the next strategic plan. Commissioner Clarkson (Planning Council rep on the Commission) will work with staff to activate this conversation.
- **EARLY HEALTH FOUNDATIONS**
 - Members of the Help Me Grow Steering Committee will be tapped for guidance on a potential First 5 investment toward early intervention (assessment and short-term treatment) for 0-5 year old children presenting with mild-moderate and/or difficult-to-diagnose developmental challenges.

Ms. Wendt also commented on productive conversations she has had with members of the local Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Leadership Team regarding multiple opportunities within the new strategic plan across all priority areas to help reinforce efforts to address FASD through advocacy, family education, early intervention, prevention, etc.

Commissioner Borenstein asked how much funding is available for new investments. Ms. Wendt responded a total of \$700,000 per year.

Commissioner Watt reminded of the good work being done around parent education/connection by the Center for Family Strengthening staff who manage the Parent Connection resource hub and website.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Judge (ret.) Charles Stevens Crandall, member of the FASD Leadership Team, thanked Ms. Wendt for meeting together to discuss common interests and opportunities with First 5. He appreciated learning the level of First 5 support – financial and programmatic – over the years, including over \$1 million to launch Martha's Place Children's Assessment and Treatment Center over a decade ago. He articulated two concrete asks that the Leadership Team is currently involved with: 1) creation of FASD Centers for Excellence, which would be supported through pending federal legislation, and 2) launch of a state-level agency/initiative focused on systems alignment/enhancement as related to FASD. He has met with Assemblymember Dawn Addis' team on this.

Commissioner Ortiz-Legg commented that she has learned much about this issue and is interested in staying connected with the work.

Commissioner Belch recommended agendaizing FASD as a topic at a future Commission meeting.

ITEM 7 – Staff Reports

Misty Livengood, Communications and Outreach Coordinator, provided the following updates:

- The First 5 Association Annual Meeting and Advocacy Day is coming up February 5-7th. Three legislative/budget asks will be the focus of meetings with elected officials and their staff: 1) a one-time \$100 million General Fund request to help offset steepening

declines in tobacco tax revenues to support county-level First 5 investments and activities; 2) creation of a statewide systems work group to assess need and opportunity focused on the prenatal-three year old age stage; 3) Governor's budget funding to launch implementation of already-legislated continuous Medi-Cal eligibility for children aged 0-5.

- First 5 CA Annual Summit in Oakland on March 25-27: First 5 SLO County staff will be teaming up with SLO Chamber staff and counterparts from First 5 Sonoma County and the Santa Rosa Metro Chamber to present a workshop on "The Power of Partnerships – How First 5's and Chambers of Commerce are Driving Change for Children and Families."
- Funded Partner program updates:
 - The Health Access Training Project hosted an event on "Making Sense of Changes to Medi-Cal" earlier today, which was attended by over 100 people.
 - Center for Family Strengthening's Parent Connection and SLO Help Me Grow are partnering up to offer a "Play with Me" series.
 - Talk.Read.Sing.Time Facebook Live sessions are back in action every Wednesday with Marilu Gomez.
- Month of the Child/Child Abuse Prevention Month is coming up in April, with many plans in motion for activities and events countywide. First 5 is part of the overall promotion effort and is a sponsor for several of the events.

Executive Director Wendy Wendt provided the following updates:

- The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) issued a survey in December 2023 to all 58 counties on the topic of early childhood development and County activities in this area. County of SLO requested First 5 SLO County to coordinate the local survey response, which compiled information from several County departments, Early Care and Education Planning Council, CAPSLO, and County Office of Education. CSAC leadership is anticipating a policy agenda that includes emphasis on County and State roles in advancing early childhood development, including child care.
- The Help Me Grow Steering Committee has mobilized a subcommittee to assess healthcare workforce gaps in pediatric care – including specialty care, early intervention, and behavioral health.
- Ms. Wendt participated in the 2024 Homeless Point in Time Count as a volunteer in Morro Bay.
- Tony Huffaker, new Martha's Place Program Supervisor, is in attendance at the Commission meeting. Ms. Wendt welcomed him to his new role.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lisa Fraser, Executive Director of Center for Family Strengthening, thanked Commissioners for listening to community members' perspectives on early childhood needs, and for having a platform for discussion.

ITEM 8 – Presentation: Findings and Recommendations from San Luis Obispo Mexican Indigenous Community Study (SLOMICS)

Joel Diring of Diring and Associates and Silvano Vasquez of the Mixteco Indigenous Community Organizing Project (MICOP) co-presented initial findings from the SLOMICS study. Fernanda Lucas, Director the Promotores Collaborative, provided interpretation services.

The study seeks to develop a deeper understanding regarding the local Mixteco-speaking communities living and working in San Luis Obispo County. A total of 325 Mexican indigenous residents were interviewed between April and August 2023. Preliminary findings were first presented at a community event in North County in October 2023. Following are key elements of these findings:

- 82% of those interviewed reside in North County – predominantly in Paso Robles and San Miguel
- 87% have arrived in the past four years
- Average age of interviewees is 29 years.
- Education: 21% have no formal education; 44% have a grade school education; 10% graduated from high school
- 95% have farmworker employment – 82% in vineyards, 17% in strawberry fields
- 80% have incomes below \$2,500/month
- 65% are parents with children in the home; of these, 87% have children under 5
- Living conditions are often crowded – the average household has at least 7 individuals, and as many as fourteen.
- 64% do not have enough to eat.
- Health Care: 54% have never had a physical exam; 65% have never had a dental exam; 84% have never had an eye exam
- 30% access Community Health Centers for health care services; 22% have used a pharmacy; 14% have been to a hospital; 65% visit curanderos for traditional health care supports.
- 85% have no health insurance
- Community health concerns include excessive heat, smoke and pesticide exposure; other workplace safety risks; nutrition, children's health, dental health and vaccines.
- WhatsApp and text messages are the top two ways community members receive health information.
- Community members are concerned about drinking water quality and commonly purchase bottled water (estimated 1.7 million gallons/year).

The presenters concluded with key recommendations that link with other current work:

- Address health care access by assisting community members sign on for Medi-Cal coverage
- Increase capacity within health care sector for cultural competence and effective communication in specific Mixteco variants
- Improve food access through existing services
- Address concerns related to water quality

- Incorporate overcrowding as an issue within county housing/homeless planning and policy development
- Promote/develop community service access for immigrant community members

The presenters also offered the following new direction recommendations:

- Develop new communication strategies
- Build a plan for services for young children and families
- Enhance educational opportunities
- Invest in climate resilience
- Develop novel strategies to sustain research and planning into the future

The research team is gearing up to disseminate the report widely, to launch a webpage, and to work on the above strategies with providers/agencies/community members.

Discussion ensued (note – includes public comments):

Commissioner Watt emphasized the importance of schools supporting this population. Mr. Vasquez pointed out that it is a challenge that there are few interpreters. He also pointed out that Mixteco speaking students often avoid speaking their native language for fear of being bullied/discriminated against. He wants to find ways to empower students to feel proud of who they are.

Commissioner Ventura asked what strategies are recommended related to food insecurity. Mr. Diring highlighted opportunities/efforts with WIC (many families are eligible and/or enrolled), and CalFresh. Mr. Vasquez pointed out that part of the challenge with food and nutrition is that people do not have enough money to buy nutritious food.

Commissioner Tedford asked if there is a stigma related to going to see a doctor. Mr. Vasquez responded that expense is more the issue, and also a traditional reliance on natural remedies. Mr. Diring commented that the goal should be to connect traditional and “western” practitioners and practices.

Leslie Mehigan, Lactation Consultant at Twin Cities Hospital, articulated a concern about the lack of prenatal care and limited contact with pediatricians by families with children. She has also observed early shift to formula feeding because of workplace demands for new mothers.

Mr. Diring commented that unfortunately there was no question on the survey related to child care. Commissioner Ruvalcaba-Heredia noted that many older children are in charge of taking care of younger siblings (this was especially a trend during COVID).

Fernanda Lucas, Director of the Promotores Collaborative, asked if overcrowding is due to expense, or because housing is hard to find. Mr. Diring responded that both are factors. Mr. Vasquez added that lack of credit or sufficient funds for rental deposits are further barriers. Mr. Diring also pointed out that housing subsidy programs like Section 8 are not an option for most families.

Dr. Doug Major, Optometric Care Associates, offered to ensure access to vision screening in this community through the First 5 and the Lions Club programs.

Mr. Vasquez estimated that there are as many as 2,000 or more Mixteco community members living in San Luis Obispo County.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ITEM 9: Executive Director Evaluation: Process Introduction

First 5 Legal Counsel representative Natalie Frye-Laacke introduced this item, is seeking direction from the Commission regarding the annual evaluation for the Executive Director, specifically whether the Commission would like a 360 process, or just input from Commissioners plus self-evaluation documents submitted by the Executive Director.

Commissioners Borenstein and Watt inquired whether an every-year evaluation is needed. Ms. Frye-Laacke responded that this is at the discretion of the Commission, but reminded them that staff compensation increases are tied to positive personnel evaluations.

Commissioner Belch commented on the value of consistent annual reviews for current and future Executive Directors.

Commissioner Ventura suggested that the level of intensity and detail could be adjusted if prior year personnel evaluation was strong for a continuing Executive Director. Ms. Laacke offered the option to assign Commissioners a brief paragraph of feedback for Ms. Wendt, and she could provide a self-evaluation narrative update.

Ms. Wendt commented that an annual evaluation is helpful; she gleans valuable feedback and guidance from Commissioners each year. She welcomes the exercise for her professional growth and ongoing communication with Commissioners.

Legal Counsel will proceed with the Executive Director evaluation process, to be concluded at the March 27, 2024 Commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ITEM 10: Future Agenda Items

FASD Presentation at a Commission meeting prior to the end of the fiscal year.
Commissioner Letter of Support related to FASD legislative asks.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ITEM 11 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.



To: Children And Families Commission Of San Luis Obispo County

From: Natalie Frye Laacke, Commission Counsel

Date: March 27, 2024

Re: **Item 3.b.** A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES, INCLUDING FACSIMILE SIGNATURES, FOR BANKING SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY AT PACIFIC PREMIER BANK

Item to Consider:

Consider adoption of a resolution of the children and families commission of San Luis Obispo county authorizing signatures, including facsimile signatures, for banking services on behalf of the Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo county at Pacific Premier Bank

Staff Report:

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Commission adopt a resolution of the Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County authorizing signatures, including facsimile signatures, for banking services on behalf of the Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo county at Pacific Premier Bank.

SUMMARY:

The attached banking resolution requires approval by First 5 to authorize new signers on our existing account with Pacific Premier Bank. A change in signers is required because of the change in First 5's Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. It authorizes those persons listed in the resolution to conduct banking business, including but not limited to making deposits, withdrawals, borrowing funds and investing idle funds on behalf of the Commission with the bank.

Since the Commission is contracting with the San Luis Obispo County Auditor's Office for the majority of its accounting needs, the main function of the bank account with Pacific Premier Bank is for payroll, tax and fee obligations, including employee checks, forms 940 and 941 tax payments, etc.



The practice has been that the San Luis Obispo County Auditor's office transfers funds as required into this account. The entity contracted for payroll services will transfer funds from the account to pay Commission employees and any taxes associated with Commission payroll. The majority of the financial activity is accomplished electronically.

Staff recommends the following three authorized signatories:

- 1) Penny Borenstein, MD, Chairperson;
- 2) Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg, Vice-Chairperson; and
- 3) Wendy Wendt, Executive Director of First 5 San Luis Obispo

Attachments:

Resolution 2024-01

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES, INCLUDING FACSIMILE SIGNATURES, FOR BANKING SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY AT PACIFIC PREMIER BANK

Recitals

WHEREAS, the Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County ("First 5") is a statutory Commission that was established in the County of San Luis Obispo pursuant to the provisions of Division 108 of the California Health and Safety Code, commencing at the California Health and Safety Code Section 130100 ("the Children and Families Act");

WHEREAS, the governing body of First 5 is a nine (9) member commission, who are appointed pursuant to the Children and Families Act and change from time to time (the "Commission;");

WHEREAS, First 5 established a checking account at Pacific Premier Bank's predecessor in or around 2008 to process its payroll obligations and other transactions related thereto, and based upon changes to the composition of the Commission, a change in authorized signatories is required by Pacific Premier Bank; and

WHEREAS, it is the practice of the Commission to authorize the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Executive Director to sign on orders for payment or withdrawal of money on behalf of First 5, and as of the date of this resolution, Dr. Penny Borenstein and Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg serve as the Commission's Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, respectively, and Ms. Wendy Wendt serves as the Executive Director of First 5.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County, as follows:

Section 1. The following persons are authorized to sign on orders for payment or withdrawal of money on behalf of First 5: **Wendy Wendt, Penny Borenstein, and Dawn Ortiz-Legg**. Any such authority shall remain in force until revoked by written notice to Pacific Premier Bank of the action taken by the Commission of First 5. All prior authorizations are superseded.

Section 2. Pacific Premier Bank is authorized and directed to honor and pay any checks, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money withdrawing funds from any account of First when bearing or purporting to bear the signatures of two (2) persons listed in this Resolution as having signatory authority. Pacific Premier Bank is authorized and directed to honor and to charge First 5 whom such actual or purported signatures were made, provided they resemble the signatures duly certified to and filed with the Pacific Premier Bank by First 5.

ADOPTED by the Children and Families Commission of San Luis Obispo County on March 27, 2024, by the following roll call votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

Dated: March 27, 2024

Approved as to content for First 5:

**Children and Families Commission of
San Luis Obispo County (“COMMISSION”)**

Executive Director

By: _____

Approved as to form for First 5:

By: _____

Commission Counsel

To: First 5 Commission of San Luis Obispo County

From: First 5 Staff

Date: March 27, 2024

Re: Item 3c: Review/Approve Contract with First 5 Santa Barbara County totaling \$182,500 for Home Visiting Coordination Services.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that the Commission approve a contract with First 5 Santa Barbara County totaling \$182,500 for Home Visiting Coordination Services through June 30, 2025.

Background

In October 2019, the F5CA State Commission (Commission) approved up to \$24 million in funding for five years through Fiscal Year 2024–2025 to help counties create a sustainable, unified system that supports families with the home visiting services they need and maximize available funding to serve more families. This catalytic funding was meant to promote increased coordination and collaboration in local home visiting systems across CA. Between 2020 and 2022, 50 counties received approximately \$9 million of funding to develop or strengthen a cross-agency, cross-system understanding of the role home visiting plays in supporting family well-being, increase access to culturally and linguistically responsive home visiting, and integrate home visiting into other child- and family-serving systems.

In May 2023, the Commission issued a new RFA that continued and is still expanding that work. The purpose of this grant is to empower counties to continue their work creating a sustainable, unified system that supports families with the home visiting services to support family well-being and maximize available funding to serve more families. The funding is designed to promote group, individual, and peer-to-peer technical assistance to help counties continue strengthening a range of systems coordination and integration activities, highlight lived-experience in policies and program decisions, and address inequities.

This RFA used a regional funding approach. The goal of the regional structure is to build and maintain collective capacity to maximize access to the resources and technical assistance needed to achieve local and state home visiting coordination and integration goals and promote an equitable home visiting system embedded into other child- and family-serving systems. First 5 SLO County (F5SLO) is part of Region 7 which includes First 5 San Luis Obispo County, First 5 Santa Barbara County and First 5 Ventura County.

Through discussions with our regional partners, there was agreement that these funds could be of value for our regional and local home visiting system. First 5 Santa Barbara County agreed to take the role of the Grantee/Fiscal lead and was responsible for submitting an application. First 5 SLO and Ventura Counties were included in the application as regional partners. First 5 Santa Barbara was awarded this grant in June 2023, with services to begin July 1, 2023. The regional award includes discretionary funds related to home visiting coordination for each local partner. First 5 SLO County's share of the local funding is \$181,250 to be spent in FY 23-25. Actual spending of any of the grant funds was delayed due to contract processing challenges at First 5 CA. These delays resulted in a compressed time frame in which the money can be used. For First 5 SLO County, this means that all of the FY 23-24 local funding (\$91,250) needs to be spent by June 30, 2024, with no option for rollover. The balance of the funding (\$91,250) is to be spent in FY 24-25.

Staff had originally planned to use the local funds to continue a portion of the F5SLO funded home visiting coordination activities being carried out by the County of SLO Public Health Department



(SLOPHD) scheduled to sunset June 30, 2024. Because of the delays in the State funding and staff changes in home visiting coordination at SLOPHD, this is no longer a viable option. In discussions with regional lead First 5 Santa Barbara about how best to deploy local funding given the restricted time frame for FY 23-24, it was determined that F5SLO could use the FY 23-24 funding to pay for expenses related to the home visiting coordination services contract with SLOPHD. These activities are already appropriately aligned with the goals of the regional HV grant.

The plan for fiscal year 24-25, is for F5SLO to hire a consultant to continue county-wide home visiting related coordination, networking, professional development activities, including Home Visiting Lunch & Learns, already established through F5SLO funding. Additionally, we will allocate \$21,250 to extend the SLOPHD contract to enable its participation in regional and local home visiting coordination activities.

AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

THIS AGREEMENT (hereafter Agreement) is made by and between the FIRST 5 Santa Barbara County, Children & Families Commission (hereafter COMMISSION) and **FIRST 5 San Luis Obispo County** having its principal place of business at 3220 Higuera Street, Suite 232, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (hereafter CONTRACTOR) wherein CONTRACTOR agrees to provide and COMMISSION agrees to accept the services specified herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

1. **DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE.** Wendy Sims-Moten at phone number (805) 884-8086 is the representative of the COMMISSION and will administer this Agreement for and on behalf of COMMISSION. Wendy Wendt at phone number (805) 781-4058 is the authorized representative for CONTRACTOR. Changes in designated representatives shall be made only after advance written notice to the other party.

2. **NOTICES.** Any notice or consent required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be given to the respective parties in writing, by first class mail, postage prepaid, or otherwise delivered as follows:

To COMMISSION: FIRST 5 Santa Barbara County
Children & Families Commission
5385 Hollister Ave., Bldg 10, Suite 110
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
Attn: Wendy Sims-Moten

To CONTRACTOR: FIRST 5 San Luis Obispo
Children & Families Commission
3220 South Higuera Street
Suite 232
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Attn: Wendy Wendt

or at such other address or to such other person that the parties may from time to time designate. Notices and consents under this section, which are sent by mail, shall be deemed to be received five (5) days following their deposit in the U.S. mail.

3. **SCOPE OF SERVICES.** CONTRACTOR agrees to provide services to the COMMISSION in accordance with Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

4. **TERM.** CONTRACTOR shall commence performance on **April 1, 2024** and end performance upon completion, but no later than **June 30, 2025** unless otherwise directed by the COMMISSION or unless earlier terminated. All insurance certificates must be current and proof of insurance must be provided prior to execution of contract.

5. **COMPENSATION OF CONTRACTOR.** In full consideration for CONTRACTOR'S services, CONTRACTOR shall be paid for performance under this Agreement in accordance with the terms of Exhibit B attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Billing shall be made by invoice, which shall include the contract number assigned by the COMMISSION and which is delivered to the address given in Section 2 **NOTICES** above or via electronic mail following completion of the increments identified on Exhibit B. Unless otherwise specified on Exhibit B, payment shall be net thirty (30) days from presentation of invoice. Invoices will be held until all deliverables have met the scheduled time line.

6. **SUPPLANTATION OF FUNDS.** Consistent with the intent of the California Children and Families Act of 1998, no monies from this Program may be used to supplant other federal, state, private, or local funds that currently, or within the last 12 months, have been committed to the agency for any purpose. Activities funded through the California Children and Families Act of 1998 must be new or enhancements to existing activities. CONTRACTOR must comply with Supplantation Policy adopted by the COMMISSION. A copy of the Supplantation Policy is located in the Contractor's Manual on the COMMISSION's website at www.First5SantaBarbaraCounty.org, and is incorporated in this Agreement by reference.

7. **LEVERAGING OF PROPOSITION 10 FUNDS.** CONTRACTOR shall provide the COMMISSION with a semi-annual report on such leveraging, including the amount generated and a report on how those funds were reinvested in FIRST 5 funded programs.

8. **NONAPPROPRIATION.** This Agreement is funded from revenue derived from a tax placed on the sale of cigarettes. COMMISSION reasonably believes that such tax revenue will be available to fully fund this Agreement for its term. In the event, however, no funds or insufficient funds are available for payments, then COMMISSION will immediately notify CONTRACTOR of such occurrence and the Agreement may be terminated by COMMISSION in accordance with paragraph 23 of this Agreement.

9. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.** It is mutually understood and agreed that CONTRACTOR, (including any and all of its officers, agents, and employees), shall perform all of its services under this Agreement as an independent contractor as to COMMISSION and not as an officer, agent, servant employee, joint venture, partner, or associate of COMMISSION. CONTRACTOR understands and acknowledges that it shall not be entitled to any of the benefits of a COUNTY employee, including but not limited to vacation, sick leave, administrative leave, health insurance, disability insurance, retirement, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation and protection of tenure. CONTRACTOR shall be solely liable and responsible for providing to, or on behalf of, its employees all legally-required employee benefits.

10. **STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE.** CONTRACTOR represents that it has the skills, expertise, and licenses/permits necessary to perform the services required under this Agreement. Reimbursements for services can be based on performance or compliance with reporting. All products of whatsoever nature which CONTRACTOR delivers to COMMISSION pursuant to this Agreement shall be prepared in a first class and workmanlike manner and shall conform to the standards of quality normally observed by a person practicing in CONTRACTOR's profession. CONTRACTOR shall correct or revise any errors or omissions, at the COMMISSION'S request without additional compensation. Permits and/or licenses shall be obtained and maintained by CONTRACTOR without additional compensation.

11. **DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION.** CONTRACTOR certifies to COMMISSION that it and its employees and principals are not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for, participation in federal, state or county government contracts. CONTRACTOR certifies that it shall not contract with a subcontractor that is so debarred or suspended.

12. **TAXES.** CONTRACTOR shall pay all taxes, levies, duties, and assessments of every nature due in connection with any work under this Agreement and shall make any and all payroll deductions required by law. The COMMISSION shall not be responsible for paying any taxes on CONTRACTOR's behalf, and should the COMMISSION be required to do so by state, federal, or local taxing agencies, CONTRACTOR agrees to promptly reimburse COMMISSION for the full value of such paid taxes plus interest and penalty, if any. These taxes shall include, but not be limited to, the following: FICA (Social Security), unemployment insurance contributions, income tax, disability insurance, and workers' compensation insurance.

13. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** CONTRACTOR covenants that CONTRACTOR presently has no employment or interest and shall not acquire any employment or interest, direct or indirect, including any interest in any business, property, or source of income, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of services required to be performed under this Agreement. CONTRACTOR further covenants that in the performance of this Agreement, no person having any such interest shall be employed by CONTRACTOR. COMMISSION retains the right to waive a conflict of interest disclosed by CONTRACTOR if COMMISSION determines it to be immaterial, and such waiver is only effective if provided by COMMISSION to CONTRACTOR in writing.

14. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMISSION.** COMMISSION shall provide all information reasonably necessary by CONTRACTOR in performing the services provided herein.

15. **OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.** COMMISSION shall be the owner of the following items incidental to this Agreement upon production, whether or not completed: all data collected, all documents of any type whatsoever, all photos, designs, sound or audiovisual recordings, software code, inventions, technologies, and other materials, and any material necessary for the practical use of such items, from the time of collection and/or production whether or not performance under this Agreement is completed or terminated prior to completion. CONTRACTOR shall not release any of such items to other parties except after prior written approval of COMMISSION. Unless otherwise specified in Exhibit A, CONTRACTOR hereby assigns to COMMISSION all copyright, patent, and other intellectual property and proprietary rights to all data, documents, reports, photos, designs, sound or audiovisual recordings, software code, inventions, technologies, and other materials prepared or provided by CONTRACTOR pursuant to this Agreement (collectively referred to herein as "Copyrightable Works and Inventions"). COMMISSION shall have the unrestricted authority to copy, adapt, perform, display, publish, disclose, distribute, create derivative works from, and otherwise use in whole or in part, any Copyrightable Works and Inventions. CONTRACTOR agrees to take such actions and execute and deliver such documents as may be needed to validate, protect and confirm the rights and assignments provided hereunder. CONTRACTOR warrants that any Copyrightable Works and Inventions and other items provided under this Agreement will not infringe upon any intellectual property or proprietary rights of any third party. CONTRACTOR at its own expense shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless COMMISSION against any claim that any Copyrightable Works or Inventions or other items provided by CONTRACTOR hereunder infringe upon any intellectual property or other proprietary rights of a third party, and CONTRACTOR shall pay any damages, costs, settlement amounts, and fees (including attorneys'

fees) that may be incurred by COMMISSION in connection with any such claims. This Ownership of Documents and Intellectual Property provision shall survive expiration or termination of the Agreement.

16. **RECORDS, AUDIT, AND REVIEW.** CONTRACTOR shall keep such business records pursuant to this Agreement as would be kept by a reasonably prudent practitioner of CONTRACTOR's profession and shall maintain such records for at least four (4) years following the termination of this Agreement. All accounting records shall be kept in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. COMMISSION shall have the right to audit and review all such documents and records at any time during CONTRACTOR's regular business hours or upon reasonable notice. In addition, if this Agreement exceeds ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) CONTRACTOR shall be subject to the examination and audit of the State Auditor General for a period of three (3) years after final payment under the Agreement (Cal. Govt. Code Section 8546.7). CONTRACTOR shall participate in any audits and review, whether by COMMISSION or the State, at no charge to COMMISSION.

17. **INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE.** CONTRACTOR agrees to the indemnification and insurance provisions as set forth in EXHIBIT C attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

18. **NONDISCRIMINATION.**

- A. COMMISSION hereby notifies CONTRACTOR that the COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA's Unlawful Discrimination Ordinance (Article XIII of Chapter 2 of the Santa Barbara County Code) applies to this Agreement and is incorporated herein by this reference with the same force and effect as if the ordinance were specifically set out herein and CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with said ordinance.
- B. CONTRACTOR will serve its target population in an environment that is free of discrimination and sensitive to differences of people working towards the common goal of children ready to enter elementary school as healthy and active learners, including sensitivity to differences of gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, physical ability, sexual orientation or other life experiences. A copy of the First 5 Santa Barbara County Statement of Social Justice and Racial Equity is located on the COMMISSION's website at www.First5SantaBarbaraCounty.org , and is incorporated in this Agreement by reference. Failure to adhere to the First 5 Santa Barbara County State of Social Justice and Racial Equity during the term of this Agreement may lead to termination of the Agreement by COMMISSION in accordance with paragraph 23 of this Agreement.
- C. FAITH BASED CONTRACTOR will not require participation in a given faith to be a prerequisite for receiving services utilizing Proposition 10 dollars. Outreach for services will be to the community at large. All Faith Based organizations must comply with the Faith Based Policy adopted by the Commission. A copy of the Faith Based Policy is located in the Contractor's Manual on the COMMISSION's website at

www.First5SantaBarbaraCounty.org , and is incorporated in this Agreement by reference.

19. **NONEXCLUSIVE AGREEMENT.** CONTRACTOR understands that this is not an exclusive Agreement and that COMMISSION shall have the right to negotiate with and enter into contracts with others providing the same or similar services as those provided by CONTRACTOR as the COMMISSION desires.

20. **NON-ASSIGNMENT.** CONTRACTOR shall not assign any of its rights nor transfer any of its obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of COMMISSION and any attempt to so assign or so transfer without such consent shall be void and without legal effect and shall constitute grounds for termination.

21. **SUB-CONTRACTORS.** CONTRACTOR shall supervise and monitor all work performed by any and all sub-contractors including units of service performed, insurance coverage, invoice amounts and fiscal records. CONTRACTOR is responsible for reporting units of service for the subcontractor in each bi-annual report. CONTRACTOR will notify COMMISSION in writing of any noncompliance issue with sub-contractor.

22. **TERMINATION.**

A. **By COMMISSION.** COUNTY may, by written notice to CONTRACTOR, terminate this Agreement in whole or in part, whether for COMMISSION's convenience, for no appropriation of funds, or because of the failure of CONTRACTOR to fulfill the obligations herein.

1. **For Convenience.** COMMISSION may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part upon thirty (30) days written notice. During the thirty (30) day period, CONTRACTOR shall, as directed by COMMISSION, wind down and cease its services as quickly and efficiently as reasonably possible, without performing unnecessary services or activities and by minimizing negative effects on COMMISSION from such winding down and cessation of services.
2. **For Non-appropriation of Funds.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, in the event that no funds or insufficient funds are appropriated or budgeted by federal, state or county governments, or funds are not otherwise available for payments by COMMISSION in the fiscal year(s) covered by the term of this Agreement, then COMMISSION will notify CONTRACTOR of such occurrence and COMMISSION may terminate or suspend this Agreement in whole or in part, with or without a prior notice period. Subsequent to termination of this Agreement under this provision, COMMISSION shall have no obligation to make payments with regard to the remainder of the term.
3. **For Cause.** Should CONTRACTOR default in the performance of this Agreement or materially breach any of its provisions, COMMISSION may,

at COMMISSIONS's sole option, terminate or suspend this Agreement in whole or in part by written notice. Upon receipt of notice, CONTRACTOR shall immediately discontinue all services affected (unless the notice directs otherwise) and notify COMMISSION as to the status of its performance. The date of termination shall be the date the notice is received by CONTRACTOR, unless the notice directs otherwise.

- B. By CONTRACTOR. Should COMMISSION fail to pay CONTRACTOR all or any part of the payment set forth in EXHIBIT B, CONTRACTOR may, at CONTRACTOR's option terminate this Agreement if such failure is not remedied by COMMISSION within thirty (30) days of written notice to COMMISSION of such late payment. First 5 San Luis Obispo has the option to return funds if unable to find a subcontractor to complete the agreed upon scope of work.
- C. Upon termination, CONTRACTOR shall deliver to COMMISSION all data, estimates, graphs, summaries, reports, and all other property, records, documents or papers as may have been accumulated or produced by CONTRACTOR in performing this Agreement, whether completed or in process, except such items as COMMISSION may, by written permission, permit CONTRACTOR to retain. Notwithstanding any other payment provision of this Agreement, COMMISSION shall pay CONTRACTOR for satisfactory services performed to the date of termination to include a prorated amount of compensation due hereunder less payments, if any, previously made. In no event shall CONTRACTOR be paid an amount in excess of the full price under this Agreement nor for profit on unperformed portions of service. CONTRACTOR shall furnish to COMMISSION such financial information as in the judgment of COMMISSION is necessary to determine the reasonable value of the services rendered by CONTRACTOR. In the event of a dispute as to the reasonable value of the services rendered by CONTRACTOR, the decision of COMMISSION shall be final. The foregoing is cumulative and shall not affect any right or remedy which COMMISSION may have in law or equity.

23. **SECTION HEADINGS.** The headings of the several sections, and any table of contents appended hereto, shall be solely for convenience of reference and shall not affect the meaning, construction or effect hereof.

24. **SEVERABILITY.** If any one or more of the provisions contained herein shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, then such provision or provisions shall be deemed severable from the remaining provisions hereof, and such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision hereof, and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

25. **REMEDIES NOT EXCLUSIVE.** No remedy herein conferred upon or reserved by COMMISSION is intended to be exclusive of any other remedy or remedies, and each and every such

remedy, to the extent permitted by law, shall be cumulative and in addition to any other remedy given hereunder or now or hereafter existing at law or in equity or otherwise.

26. **SOLE RECOURSE.** CONTRACTOR'S sole remedy is against the COMMISSION and COMMISSION Trust Funds and CONTRACTOR will not seek damages, specific performance, or other relief from the County of Santa Barbara or its agencies or employees.

27. **TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.** Time is of the essence in this Agreement and each covenant and term is a condition herein.

28. **NO WAIVER OF DEFAULT.** No delay or omission of COMMISSION to exercise any right or power arising upon the occurrence of any event of default shall impair any such right or power or shall be construed to be a waiver of any such default or an acquiescence therein; and every power and remedy given by this Agreement to COMMISSION shall be exercised from time to time and as often as may be deemed expedient in the sole discretion of COMMISSION.

29. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT AND AMENDMENT.** In conjunction with the matters considered herein, this Agreement contains the entire understanding and agreement of the parties and there have been no promises, representations, agreements, warranties or undertakings by any of the parties, either oral or written, of any character or nature hereafter binding except as set forth herein. This Agreement may be altered, amended or modified only by an instrument in writing, executed by the parties to this Agreement and by no other means. Each party waives their future right to claim, contest or assert that this Agreement was modified, canceled, superseded, or changed by any oral agreements, course of conduct, waiver or estoppel.

30. **SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS.** All representations, covenants and warranties set forth in this Agreement, by or on behalf of, or for the benefit of any or all of the parties hereto, shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of such party, its successors and assigns.

31. **COMPLIANCE WITH LAW.** CONTRACTOR shall, at his sole cost and expense, comply with all County, State and Federal ordinances and statutes now in force or which may hereafter be in force with regard to this Agreement. The judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction, or the admission of CONTRACTOR in any action or proceeding against CONTRACTOR, whether COMMISSION be a party thereto or not, that CONTRACTOR has violated any such ordinance or statute, shall be conclusive of that fact as between CONTRACTOR and COMMISSION.

32. **CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE- MANDATED REPORTING.** CONTRACTOR shall comply with Penal Code Section 11165.7. Contractor shall have established procedures for paid and volunteer staff for reporting suspected child abuse cases. The procedure shall be made available to the COMMISSION upon request.

- A. CONTRACTOR employees, volunteers, who have direct contact with children when providing FIRST 5 funded services must receive annual training and sign a statement that he or she know of the child abuse reporting laws and will comply with requirements. All training shall be documented in an individual's personnel file.

- B. CONTRACTOR must receive CA fingerprint clearance for all employees, and volunteers who provide FIRST 5 funded direct services to children which state that they do not have a criminal history which would compromise the safety of children.

33. **CALIFORNIA LAW.** The laws of the State of California shall govern this Agreement. Any litigation regarding this Agreement or its contents shall be filed in the County of Santa Barbara, if in state court, or in the federal district court nearest to Santa Barbara County, if in federal court.

34. **EXECUTION OF COUNTERPARTS.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and each of such counterparts shall for all purposes be deemed to be an original; and all such counterparts, or as many of them as the parties shall preserve undestroyed, shall together constitute one and the same instrument.

35. **AUTHORITY.** All signatories and parties to this Agreement warrant and represent that they have the power and authority to enter into this Agreement in the names, titles and capacities herein stated and on behalf of any entities, persons, or firms represented or purported to be represented by such entity (ies), person(s), or firm(s) and that all formal requirements necessary or required by any state and/or federal law in order to enter into this Agreement have been fully complied with. Furthermore, by entering into this Agreement, CONTRACTOR hereby warrants that it shall not have breached the terms or conditions of any other contract or agreement to which CONTRACTOR is obligated, which breach would have a material effect hereon.

36. **PRECEDENCE.** In the event of conflict between the provisions contained in the numbered sections of this Agreement and the provisions contained in the Exhibits, the provisions of the Exhibits shall prevail over those in the numbered sections.

Agreement for Services of Independent CONTRACTOR between the **FIRST 5 Santa Barbara County, Children & Families Commission** and **FIRST 5 San Luis Obispo County, Children & Families Commission**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement to be effective on the date executed by COMMISSION.

FIRST 5 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION

By: _____
Wendy Sims-Moten, Executive Director
Date: _____

FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION

By: _____
Wendy Wendt, Executive Director
Date: _____

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

By: _____
Dawn Ortiz-Legg, Vice-Chairperson
Date: _____
Authorized by Commission Action on: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RACHEL VAN MULLEM
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: _____
Deputy County Counsel
Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO ACCOUNTING FORM:
BETSY SCHAFFER, CPA, CPFO
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

By: _____
Auditor-Controller
Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
GREG MILLIGAN
RISK MANAGER

By: _____
Risk Program Administrator
Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
NATALIE FRYE LAACKER
FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COMMISSION COUNSEL

By: _____
FIRST 5 SLO COMMISSION COUNSEL
Date: _____

EXHIBIT A STATEMENT OF WORK

CONTRACTOR, **FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, Children & Families Commission** shall provide to COMMISSION (First 5 SBC) under this Agreement the following activities and deliverables:

Overview:

Contractor will work to create a unified coordination, screening/assessment and referral system of care for home visiting programs in SLO County. Key programs may include: Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), Healthy Families America (HFA), and Early Support Program-Field Nursing (ESP) operated by County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department. The following additional programs may also be included: Department of Social Services CalWORKs home visiting, CAPSLO-Help Me Grow Centralized Access Point, Early Head Start and DSS-funded "Family Preservation"), Martha's Place and HCPCFC, and the Center for Family Strengthening (e.g., the Link, Promotores Collaborative, SART referrals, and Child Advocacy Center planning.). A central goal of the program is to create accessible simplified entry for all pregnant women (or post-partum if not identified prenatally) leading to a coordinated Continuity of Care Model for the families prenatal to five years old. This system will be supported through ongoing networking and professional development opportunities.

Goals:

1. Build a strong and thriving network of family-centered home visiting providers across agencies who work closely together to meet the complex needs of home visiting clients;
2. Use this network to improve families' experiences of home visiting services, reduce duplication of services, and improve outcomes for families;
3. Identify best practices in the area of provider and family collaboration including collaborative case planning, data-sharing, and shared learning opportunities;
4. Develop policies and procedures that will sustain collaborative home visiting over the long term; and
5. Implement a shared database and information sharing across agencies for enhancing family-centered practice and building sustainability into cross-agency collaboration.

Objective 1:

1. By June 30, 2025, maximize county-wide home visiting services and efficiencies and establish a coordinated and collaborative home visiting system of care in San Luis Obispo County as outlined in the First 5 CA Home Visitation Coordination and Technical Assistance Scope of Work for Region 7.

Objective 2:

2. By June 30, 2025, establish collaborative, coordinated home visiting network and professional development opportunities as outlined in the First 5 CA Home Visitation Coordination and Technical Assistance Scope of Work for Region 7.

Activities:

- a. Create and maintain partnerships with supporting agencies. Build alliances with service providers (e.g., Martha's Place, Community Action Partnership of SLO, Help Me Grow,

Department of Social Services, Center for Family Strengthening, etc.) in the county that will contribute to the Home Visitation Coordination efforts for San Luis Obispo County.

- b. Provide Registration for the Home Visitation Conference for Public Health, CAPSLO and host the Community Partners Quarterly Lunch and Learns for Home Visitors and Community Partners in San Luis Obispo County.
- c. Host meetings for Home Visitation Providers with opportunities for relationship building, provide program/agency updates, and presentations on program specifics and available resources for clients.
- d. Attend Home Visitation Conference for PH, CAPSLO and other key community partners.
- e. Plan and provide local 1-Day Home Visiting Symposium
- f. Outreach to Home Visiting referral sources
- g. Develop policies and procedures regarding collaborating with other home visitors to share information about families in common and work together to create case plans that reflect a collaborative approach.
- h. Develop shared tools such as common intake, assessment, and referral processes.
- i. Research and organize training and development opportunities for implementing collaborative practices and tools as well as building skills for home visiting best practices.
- j. Research and adopt a database for use by agencies that offer home visiting services to ensure that referred families receive appropriate services and that families know who they are working with as a team.

I. Reporting:

CONTRACTOR will submit to Contract Lead, a completed Year End Impact Report by July 15 of each fiscal year.

V. Confidentiality:

CONTRACTOR must comply with the Confidentiality and Collection of Evaluation Data Policy adopted by the COMMISSION (All policies are available in the Contractor's Manual and on the COMMISSION's website at www.First5SantaBarbaraCounty.org) to include: confidentiality of client records and/or client information pursuant to: Title 42 United States Code (USC) Section 290 dd-2; Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 2; Title 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 51009; Welfare & Institutions Code (W&IC) Sections 14100.2 and 5328; Health and Safety Code (HSC) Sections 11812 and 11845.5; Civil Code Sections 56 – 56.37, 1798.80 – 1798.82, and 1798.85; and Penal Code (PC) Sections 11140, 11142 and 13303. Client records and/or information must comply with all appropriate State and Federal requirements. CONTRACTOR shall ensure that no list of persons receiving services under this Agreement is published, disclosed, or used for any purpose except for the direct administration of these services or other uses authorized by law that are not in conflict with requirements for confidentiality contained in the preceding codes.

VI. Service Age:

CONTRACTOR may provide the services set forth in this Agreement up to the child's sixth birthday or through kindergarten.

VII Access to Staff and Facilities:

COMMISSION staff may conduct yearly site visits of CONTRACTOR'S program, which are part of the Agreement monitoring process. During the site visit COMMISSION staff will review

CONTRACTOR's and sub contractor's scope of services, statement of work, program implementation, program and fiscal and evaluation data collection. The COMMISSION reserves the right to request at any time, any or all appropriate licenses, permits, registrations, accreditations, and/or certificates required by Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, guidelines, and/or directives for the operation of CONTRACTOR'S facility(ies) and for the provision of services hereunder as well as its officers, employees, and/or agents performing the services hereunder. COMMISSION staff will adhere to all confidentiality policies and will sign necessary confidentiality forms if requested by CONTRACTOR.

VIII. COMMISSION Policies:

CONTRACTOR shall comply with the COMMISSION'S policies, which include: Tobacco Free Environment Policy, Funding Faith-Based Organizations Policy, Confidentiality and Collection of Evaluation Data Policy, Attribution Standards Policy, Leveraging Policy, Supplantation Policy, Service Age Policy, Principles on Equity, Capital Projects and Improvements Time Extension Policy, and Bi-Annual Fiscal Penalty Policy. (All policies are available in the Contractor's Manual and on the COMMISSION's website at www.First5SantaBarbaraCounty.org). The COMMISSION reserves the right to adopt policies in response to changes in State law.

IX. Evaluation Participation:

CONTRACTOR will participate in a comprehensive, regional evaluation being conducted by the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Graduate School of Education. Participation will include, but is not limited to, the collection of data on project implementation, participant characteristics, and agreed upon outcomes and indicators associated with the initiative. CONTRACTOR must comply with the Confidentiality and Collection of Evaluation Data policy adopted by the COMMISSION. (This Policy along with all the other Commission policies are available in the Contractor's Manual, which provides important information and policies to support successful implementation of grant funds for funded partners.)

EXHIBIT B

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Periodic Compensation (with attached Schedule of Fees)

- A. For CONTRACTOR services to be rendered under this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall be paid a total contract amount, including cost reimbursements, not to exceed **\$182,500**. Payment will not exceed: **\$91,250** per fiscal year (April 1, 2024-June 30, 2025) starting **April 1, 2024**. There will be no payment for services performed or expenditures made prior to the full execution of this Agreement. There will be no rollover of funding between fiscal years.
- B. Payment for services and /or reimbursement of costs shall be made upon CONTRACTOR's satisfactory performance, based upon the scope and methodology contained in **EXHIBIT A** as determined by COMMISSION on a quarterly basis or as determined by mutual agreement between CONTRACTOR and COMMISSION. Beginning each fiscal year, payment for services and/or reimbursement of costs shall be based upon the costs, expenses, overhead charges, and hourly rates for personnel, as defined in **ATTACHMENT B-1** (Schedule of Fees). Invoices submitted for payment that are based upon **ATTACHMENT B-1** must contain sufficient detail to enable an audit of the charges and provide supporting documentation if so specified in **EXHIBIT A**.
- C. CONTRACTOR shall submit to the COMMISSION DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE an invoice for the service performed over the period specified and following the recommended Schedule of Quarterly Invoicing in Attachment B-1. COMMISSION shall pay invoices or claims for satisfactory work within 30 days of receipt of correct and complete invoices or claims from CONTRACTOR. CONTRACTOR will maintain adequate records to substantiate invoice for reimbursement. In cases where the contract includes one or more subcontractors, CONTRACTOR is responsible for the accuracy of subcontractor claims, and verification of support documentation submitted in CONTRACTOR'S invoice.
- D. COMMISSION'S' failure to discover or object to any unsatisfactory work or billings prior to payment will not constitute a waiver of COMMISSION'S right to require CONTRACTOR to correct such work or billings or seek any other legal remedy.
- E. Budget revision requests must be communicated to and approved by the Contract and Fiscal Lead on or before May 1st of the current fiscal year. Budget revisions approved by the Contract and Fiscal Lead shall be incorporated in and become part of this Agreement. Requests received after May 1st of the fiscal year will not be accepted.
- F. CONTRACTOR must confirm, by June 15th of the fiscal year, the spending of the full contract of what they will spend by the end of the fiscal year.
- G. Allocated Administrative/Overhead costs shall not be reimbursable and shall not be claimed unless such costs are identified and budgeted in ATTACHMENT B-1 of this Agreement.
- H. OTHER FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Delivery of Service Commitment

CONTRACTOR is expected to deliver the level of services (by fiscal year) as specified on the attached ATTACHMENT B-1. CONTRACTOR understands and acknowledges that the failure to timely expend funds for any given fiscal year of this Agreement may jeopardize the ability to meet performance measures or legal requirements and may raise questions about the need for services and viability of providing funds for these services.

Fiscal Records

Maintain adequate fiscal and project books, records, documents, and other evidence pertinent to the CONTRACTOR's performance of the Agreement in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Adequate supporting documentation shall be maintained in such detail so as to permit tracing transactions from support documentation to the accounting record to the financial reports and billings. CONTRACTOR shall keep such records pursuant to this Agreement as would be kept by a reasonably prudent practitioner of CONTRACTOR's profession and as required by law and shall maintain such records for the greater of four (4) years following the termination of this Agreement or as otherwise stated by law and shall be subject to examination and audit by authorized State or COMMISSION representatives at any time during CONTRACTOR's regular business hours upon reasonable notice.

Inspection of Records

Make sure books, records, documents and other evidence is available to the COMMISSION, or its Designated Representative, during the term of the Agreement or final audit, and for four (4) years after the termination of this Agreement or as otherwise required by law, whichever is later, and provide suitable facilities for access, monitoring, inspection, and copying thereof.

**ATTACHMENT B-1
SCHEDULE OF FEES
Budget for First 5 San Luis Obispo**

Beginning: April 1, 2024
Ending: June 30, 2025

Agency: First 5 San Luis Obispo

Fiscal Contact Name: Wendy Wendt
Fiscal Contact E-mail: wwendt@first5slo.org

Year 1 (FY 23-24)

FY AMOUNT: \$91,250

Expense Categories

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| A. Salaries & Benefits: | \$0 |
| B. Services and Supplies: | \$0 |
| C. Equipment: | \$0 |
| D. Subcontract/Contractor: | \$91,250 |
| E. Indirect: | \$0 |

YEAR 1 TOTAL: \$91,250

Year 2 (FY 24-25)

FY AMOUNT: \$91,250

Expense Categories

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| A. Salaries & Benefits: | \$0 |
| B. Services and Supplies: | \$0 |
| C. Equipment: | \$0 |
| D. Subcontract/Contractor: | \$91,250 |
| E. Indirect: | \$0 |

YEAR 2 TOTAL: \$91,250

TOTAL 2 YEAR AMOUNT OF AGREEMENT NOT TO EXCEED: \$182,500

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

Year 1 (FY23-24)

A. Personnel: N/A
B. Supplies: N/A
C. N/A

D. Subcontractor/Contractor: First 5 SLO County will contract with County of San Luis Obispo Public Health for Home Visiting Coordination and Professional Development Services. Services to include:

- Establish and maintain Home Visiting Steering Coordination Team.

- Plan and provide Quarterly Lunch and Learns for home visitors and community partners,
- Plan and provide local 1-Day Home Visiting Symposium.
- Outreach to Home Visiting referral Sources.
- Development of policies and procedures regarding collaborating with other home visitors to share information about families in common and work together to create case plans that reflect a collaborative approach.
- Development of shared tools such as common intake, assessment, and referral processes

E. Indirect Costs Note: N/A

Year 2 (FY24-25)

A. Personnel: N/A

B. Supplies: N/A

C. Equipment: N/A

D. Subcontractor/Contractor: First 5 will contract with one or more home visiting consultants and/or contractors of their choosing to continue Home Visiting Coordination and Professional Development Services as outlined above.

E. Indirect Costs: N/A

Quarterly Invoicing Schedule

| <u>Time Frame</u> | <u>Invoice Date</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| April – June | July 15, 2024 |
| July – September | October 31, 2024 |
| October – December | January 31, 2025 |
| January – March | April 30, 2025 |
| April – June | July 15, 2025 |

EXHIBIT C
INSURANCE

To: First 5 Commission

From: Staff

Date: March 27, 2024

Re: ITEM 4: Presentation of Annual Reports 2022-23

Public Hearing: FIRST 5 CA ANNUAL REPORT

Each year, The Commission is presented with a copy of First 5 California's Annual Report for review (attached under separate cover; the report is also posted on the First 5 CA website via the following link: <https://www.cafc.ca.gov/about/budget.html#annual>). This year, staff will provide a brief presentation highlighting the layout and key elements of the 2022-23 Annual Report. County Highlights for each of the 58 counties appear on pp. 30-53. First 5 San Luis Obispo County's Highlight can be found on page 46. Several local photographs are also featured throughout the document.

FIRST 5 SLO COUNTY ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT

First 5 SLO County's annual evaluation report has been completed by the Carsel Consulting team and is attached (under separate cover). The evaluation team will present an overview of the report at the Commission meeting.

To: First 5 Commission of San Luis Obispo County

From: First 5 Staff

Date: March 27, 2024

Re: Item 5: Fiscal Years 2024-26 Contracts: Review/Approve Continuing Program Contracts totaling \$922,000 to commence July 1, 2024.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that the Commission the Commission approve the eight contracts listed below in the amounts indicated for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026.

Background

At its December 6, 2024 meeting, as part of its FY 2024-2028 Strategic Planning Process the Commission approved continuing the currently funded contracts listed below for up to two years in FYs 2024-2026.

New Contracts

Table 1 lists each program, proposed contractor, funding level and summary of services for each of the new contracts. These programs will continue meeting the needs identified in the Strategic Plan, and the ongoing needs in the community of families with children prenatal to age 5. Contract duration is for two years, beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2026. All contracts are attached.

Table 1.

| Contract Funding Amounts for the Contract Period July 1, 2024-Ending June 30, 2026 | | | | |
|---|---|------------------|------------------|--|
| Programs | Organization | Annual | 2 Year Contract | Services |
| BABES | SLO Co PH (WIC) | \$179,000 | \$358,000 | Breast feeding education and support program at WIC clinics throughout the county. |
| Health Access Trainers | Carsel Consulting Group | \$25,000 | \$50,000 | Provide county-wide health access professional development trainings and advocacy. |
| Oral Health Program Manager | SLO Co PH | \$40,000 | \$80,000 | Oral health coordination, policy and screening for children and families. |
| Parents Helping Parents | Parents Helping Parents | \$62,000 | \$124,000 | Operation of resource library and referral services for families with special needs children. |
| Parent Learning Pods | South County Youth Coalition | \$60,000 | \$120,000 | Provide English and Spanish parent-child learning groups. |
| Perinatal Mental Support | Pregnancy and Parenting Support of SLO County | \$63,000 | \$126,000 | Mental health support and counseling for new parents. |
| Oral Health Prevention for Children | Tolosa Children's Dental Center | \$20,000 | \$40,000 | Preventive oral health treatment services for children in the central region of SLO County. |
| Vision Screening | Gary Englund/Optomeric Care Associates | \$12,000 | \$24,000 | Children's vision screening, referral and treatment program at preschool and kindergarten classes. |
| TOTAL BUDGET | | \$461,000 | \$922,000 | |

To: First 5 Commission

From: Staff

Date: March 27, 2024

Re: ITEM 6: Strategic Planning Updates

Narrative Plan Draft: Staff is presenting an initial draft First 5 San Luis Obispo County Strategic Plan 2024 narrative document for Commission first reading and review. A final, fully formatted version of the Plan will be submitted for Commission approval in May or June 2024.

New Investment Area Updates: Approximately \$700,000 per year in program funding is currently available to support new investment opportunities within the next Strategic Plan. Commissioners and staff will update the full Commission on progress to develop recommendations on concrete directions within these areas, to include:

- Child Care and Early Learning Investments (Commissioner Clarkson)
- SAFE System of Care 0-5 Supports (Commissioner Belch)
- Parent Education/Support Group Programs (Jason Wells)
- Early Intervention for Mild-to-Moderate Developmental Challenges (Wendy Wendt)

Commissioners:

Penny Borenstein, MD
Chairperson
*Designated Representative,
 San Luis Obispo County
 Health Agency*

Dawn Ortiz-Legg
Vice Chairperson
*Designated Representative,
 San Luis Obispo County
 Board of Supervisors*

Linda Belch
*Designated Representative,
 San Luis Obispo County
 Department of Social Services*

James Brescia, EdD
*Designated Representative,
 San Luis Obispo County
 Office of Education*

Patty Clarkson, EdD
*Designated Representative,
 Early Care and Education
 Planning Council*

Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredia, EdD
*Representative at Large,
 Corazón Latino*

James Tedford, MD
*Medical Representative
 American Academy of
 Pediatrics/Patterson and
 Tedford Pediatrics*

Alison Ventura, PhD
*Representative at Large,
 Cal Poly Kinesiology/Public
 Health*

Robert Watt
*Representative at Large,
 Coast Unified School District
 (Retired)*

STAFF:

Wendy L. Wendt
 Executive Director

Jason Wells
 Associate Director

Misty Livengood
 Communications/Outreach



June 2024

Dear Community:

Young children and families worldwide, including those in San Luis Obispo (SLO) County, have faced significant challenges in recent years, highlighted in part by the global pandemic. This era has exposed and exacerbated existing disparities in health care, education, child care, and family support systems, particularly as related to race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status. These systems are ripe for recovery and reform, using “lessons learned” as creative fuel for building viable solutions. Now more than ever, we must meet the moment to build better foundations of support for our youngest population.

First 5 recognizes that the pandemic has uniquely impacted its core priorities: Early Learning, Early Health Foundations, and Family Resilience. In SLO County, there is an increasing demand for systemic improvements in child care, focusing on affordability, accessibility, and quality. The community has expressed a need for improved early health care access, with a focus on comprehensive supports ranging from mental to oral health; and enhanced family resilience resources, such as parenting education, leadership opportunities, and social connections.

Throughout this strategic planning period and well beyond, First 5 will continue to rely on its ability to respond to continuing and emerging needs – both the typically anticipated challenges related to new parenthood, as well as the societal and personal crises arising from trauma, environmental disaster, public health emergencies, climate change, etc. First 5 itself has experienced significant change and challenge over our 25-year history, as declining revenues from state tobacco tax have cut local allocations in each county by over 50%. While this is certainly welcome news as a sign of decreased tobacco use, it does mean that First 5s and the communities we serve need to develop new and creative ways to continue our work. We will be building on a 25-year legacy of investment, network building and advocacy that has helped shape San Luis Obispo County’s fabric of supports for young children and families. Moving forward, First 5 will leverage these new programs and systems, existing and new partnerships, and lessons learned, to achieve the outcomes of our 2024-2028 Strategic Plan.

Penny Borenstein, MD
 First 5 San Luis Obispo County Commission Chair, County Health Officer

Who We Are

First 5 San Luis Obispo (SLO) County works to give our youngest children the best possible start in life. We are an independent public agency created in 1998 by California's Proposition 10. Proposition 10 was passed by California voters in November 1998. Entitled the *California Children and Families First Initiative*, it added a 50-cent per-pack tax on cigarettes and tobacco products. The tax was ear-marked to **promote early health, learning, and family support for children from the prenatal stage through five years of age.**

Most of the money (80%) is channeled to First 5 Commissions in the state's 58 counties. The amount each county receives each year is calculated using its birth rate. The rest of the funding goes to the State Commission (First 5 CA).

We are governed by a **Commission** of nine local leaders who represent various fields and perspectives related to early childhood, and who receive official approval to serve in their roles by the SLO County Board of Supervisors. The Commissioners set policy and identify key activities that are overseen by a **staff** of four. First 5 SLO County is part of a **statewide network** of First 5 agencies in all 58 counties and at the state level.

Each commission prepares a strategic plan that outlines its efforts to address local needs of young children and their families. Plans are reviewed annually and are revised periodically.

Our First 5 SLO County Commission

Designated Representatives from:

SLO County Board of Supervisors
SLO County Public Health Agency
SLO County Department of Social Services
SLO County Office of Education
SLO County Early Care and Education Planning Council

Professional Representative from:

Local Medical or Dental Society

3 Community At-Large Representatives

(selected through a community application process)

Our First 5 Statewide Network

In addition to the First 5 agencies in all of California's 58 counties, there are two statewide umbrella entities that support both local and statewide work:

The **First 5 Association** and its research arm – the **First 5 Center for Children's Policy** – provide a bridge between local and state-level work to address critical issues in the lives of California's young children and their families. **First 5 California** provides administrative and fiscal services and monitoring to local First 5 activities. First 5 California also funds special programs, public awareness campaigns and serves as a statewide voice for children prenatal to age 5 and their families.

What We Do & What We Stand For

The experiences young children have and the conditions in which they live greatly influence the kinds of adults they will become and the kinds of lives they will lead. The premise behind First 5 is that, as a society, we must prioritize giving our children the opportunities and environment needed for the best start in their first five years of life.

Our Vision: Our vision is to see children thrive in nurturing respectful environments and enter school healthy and ready to learn.

Our Mission: First 5 San Luis Obispo County funds and advocates for quality programs and services, to support children prenatal to five years old and their families, so that every child is healthy, learning and developing to their optimal potential, and ready to succeed in school and life.

Our Roles: First 5 San Luis Obispo County works to bring its vision and mission to life in three ways:

- We **advocate** for policies and systems change that prioritize young children and their families.
- We **invest** over \$1 million each year in programs and services.
- We **connect** with others in collaborative activities to share resources, educate, and bring people together to address emerging issues surrounding early childhood.

Our Guiding Values: At First 5, we are guided in our work by a set of values that are inspired by the life-stage we are honored to represent and uplift. So often, society focuses on the “innocence” of early childhood. Here, we listen to and learn from the *wisdom* of early childhood to help us focus on what is most important.

- **Early Foundations** – Every child is born with extraordinary capacities and potential. We recognize the equally extraordinary opportunity and responsibility before us to help lay early foundations for their healthy development during this critical time.
- **Equity** – *Not* every child is born into the same circumstances or resources or systems as they begin to grow and develop. We are committed to learning from families’ diverse experiences as we help eliminate early disparities in opportunity for families striving to raise thriving children.
- **Whole Family/Whole Community** – Children don’t raise themselves. Their capacities and potential are deeply linked to the capacities and potential of their families and communities. We approach our work with this always in mind – that the health and well-being of children depends on the health and wellbeing of the adults who surround them.
- **Collective Impact** – Children aren’t the only ones who thrive best as part of a thriving family and community. Organizations and systems set up to serve children and families also thrive best when they approach challenges and opportunities with a collective mindset. We see First 5 as a collaborative partner in collective efforts to lay early and equitable foundations for children, their families, and the communities where they live.
- **Innovation/Creativity** – Children are born with an innate sense of curiosity, wonder and readiness to experiment as they explore their new and unique-to-them world. We believe in this power of creativity to help us be optimally responsive to community needs and opportunities as they evolve.
- **Do What Works** – Children’s curiosity and experimentation also lead to an early understanding of “what works” for them. We remain dedicated to investing in effective models of support that are co-designed or co-identified with community members and proven in practice.

Why We Do It: The Critical Foundation of Early Childhood

Intuitively we've known for a long time that the first few years of a child's life are important. Relationships are established, core memories are created, lessons are learned, and a child begins to develop into the person they will be for the rest of their lives. Now we have data to prove it.

Science tells us it's critical. The first years of a child's life are the phase when the most growth happens. By age three, a toddler's brain is more than 80% developed. This rapid growth period gives families and communities a unique opportunity to build a strong foundation for our children. There are many simple things we can do to help reinforce this foundation and prevent avoidable problems early.

Economics tells us it's smart. A dollar invested in a young child's early development can save as much as \$13 in costs to society later on. Economic Development experts are increasingly aligning their thinking with child development experts, backed by multiple studies that measure and quantify a range of long-term benefits that accrue from effective early childhood programs, including health, quality of life, employment/income, and reduction in crime and other costs. Increasingly, business leaders are also recognizing the critical link between a vibrant economy and an equally vibrant system of support for working families and their children.

Our Hearts tell us it's the right thing to do. Children are at their most vulnerable when they first arrive in the world. Children count on the adults in their lives to nurture and protect them – not just their parents, caregivers, and family members, but all adults, including community leaders, business leaders, and members of the public. Communities have a moral obligation to ensure that children's needs are always at the forefront of our minds.

Our Community, Children & Families

Approximately 2,400 children are born each year in San Luis Obispo County. As of 2023, an estimated 15,017 children 0-5 are living here, making up approximately 5.3% of the total population (around 280,000). Overall, the child population is declining, though births in the Hispanic/Latino community are trending upwards. Higher concentrations of families with young children reside in the northern region in and around Paso Robles, the coastal community of Los Osos, and southern communities of Oceano, Nipomo and Grover Beach.

The young children and families who make San Luis Obispo County their home live in a region that is largely rural with a mix of small cities and towns. Agriculture and tourism anchor the economy across this coastal/farming landscape, along with significant and growing energy and tech sectors adjacent to the state's flagship California State University

campus – Cal Poly. The county tends to informally identify itself across several “regions” – North County (“above the Grade” from Santa Margarita to San Miguel and out to California Valley), San Luis Obispo (the centrally positioned County seat), South County (between San Luis Obispo and the Santa Barbara County line), and Coastal (Los Osos to San Simeon). As one of the nation’s ten *least* affordable counties, this is an expensive place to live and raise family – a reality that hits especially hard during early parenting years and for those already struggling to make ends meet.

A majority of people in San Luis Obispo County are Caucasian (68%); the largest population of color is Latino/Hispanic (25%). A growing number of indigenous Mexican families who speak a range of Mixteco language variants are settling in parts of the county, most notably in the far-northern communities of San Miguel, Paso Robles and Shandon.

Our Partnerships and Collaborations

First 5 collaborates with a number of ongoing initiatives in the county that support children prenatal to five and their families. Our strategic plan is designed to continue these partnerships to leverage the capacities they bring, while contributing what First 5 is uniquely positioned to add to our collective effort. In these collaborations we share resources, educate, and bring people together to address emerging issues surrounding early childhood. Examples include:

- SAFE System of Care and Family Resource Centers
- Maternal Child Adolescent Health
- Early Start/Special Education
- CalAIM
- Universal PreK/Transitional Kindergarten
- Child & Family Wellness Collaborative (prev. the Child Abuse Prevention Planning Team)
- Latino Health Coalition
- UndocuSupport
- We Are the Care/Early Care and Education Planning Council
- Help Me Grow
- Regional Home Visiting Collaborative

First 5 also contributes to county-wide, multi-agency and multi-stakeholder plans designed to address critical issues to ensure that the needs of children prenatal to five and their families are taken into account. Examples of this ongoing work include:

- SLO Health Counts/County Public Health Community Health Improvement Plan
- Local Early Care and Education Council Needs Assessment
- County of San Luis Obispo Strategic Priorities
- SLO County Child Abuse Prevention Plan
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (SLO & Santa Barbara Counties)

What Shapes Our Strategic Plan

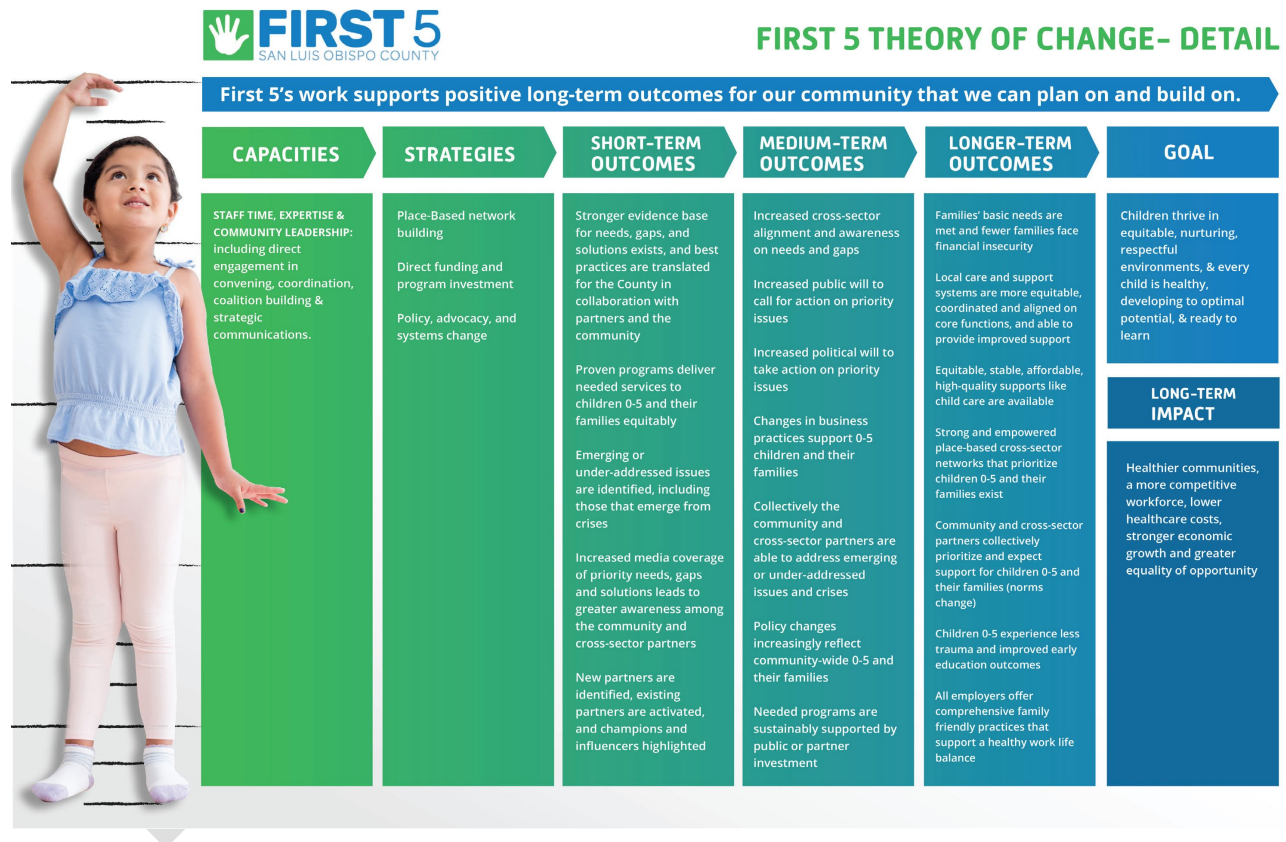
First 5 San Luis Obispo County pays close attention to the needs and assets of the communities we serve and with whom we partner. This includes the children prenatal to five and their families who live here, as well as the array of providers, organizations and systems that address early childhood. We also take time to look inward, critically examining our capacities and strengths and determining how those can be leveraged, alongside our partners, to best support young children and their families. This section describes the Theory of Change and the partnerships that help shape our work as well as the process we undertook to develop the plan.

Strategic Planning Process

Over the course of 2023, First 5 staff and Commissioners designed and implemented a strategic planning process that leveraged existing data and engaged external stakeholders to better understand where our agency could most strategically focus its efforts over the next four years. First, staff conducted an assessment to better understand current needs and gaps and how First 5 can best support these areas. They compiled relevant data sets and reports and shared them with the Commissioners to inform their understanding of the profile and needs of the county's prenatal to five-year-old population and their families. Then, First 5 staff, Commissioners, and the evaluation team conducted a series of key informant interviews and focus groups with community leaders, Commissioners, family service providers, and families regarding county needs, disparities, and First 5's role. This included more than 40 conversations with stakeholders across the county's geography, populations, and sectors. Then, using this information and the Theory of Change, First 5 staff and Commissioners identified the issues where First 5 can have the greatest impact and select priority strategies and goals in each of those areas.

Theory of Change Framework

First 5's work is guided by a Theory of Change, a framework for how we contribute to advancing the cross-sector work in and with communities that supports the health and development of children and lays the groundwork for positive long-term outcomes. Our Theory of Change takes into consideration our capacities and resources as an organization, including the expertise of our staff and Commissioners. It also takes into consideration the array of partners that we work with and the critical role that they play in an ecosystem of supports for children and families. Our Theory of Change helps us to better understand how our capacities and strategies support outcomes over time. Most importantly, our Theory of Change is a living document. As we and our partners learn more about what works, we can refine our strategies and identify new outcomes.



Within the context of its Theory of Change Framework, First 5 uses three types of strategies to effect change in the community:

- **Funding for direct services and programs:** Throughout the County, parents and children under six are often unseen or unsupported during the most essential developmental time in a child's life. First 5 funds innovative programs and expands existing resources in order to equitably meet the needs of this key population.
- **Place-based network building:** We lead and participate in cross-sector efforts that engage community members and partners to address common issues by forging relationships that can be leveraged over time. San Luis Obispo County has the collective power to identify problems and work together to address them. By connecting with and listening to families, aligning with organizational partners and leading the charge on Cross sector collaboration, First 5 is creating innovative ways to deliver services and a more nimble, cohesive and sustainable approach to care and support for young children and families.
- **Policy, advocacy, and systems change:** San Luis Obispo needs sound and equitable public policy and adequate public investment in systems that prioritize children 0-5 and nurture strong, resilient families. The County also needs those systems to be connected, coordinated and aligned in their goals and vision. First 5 supports positive long-term outcomes for communities by advocating for the policies and systems that children and families need. First 5 collaborates with partners in the County, as well as with other regions and statewide First 5 partners in its policy and systems change work.

These strategies are implemented by staff and through funded partners. For the latter, First 5 enters into contracts with partner agencies based on priorities identified in the strategic plan and emerging community needs. New partners are added as issues arise that require an immediate response; project funding is sunsetted when it is no longer core to the strategic plan, the need has declined, other funding is secured, or the project is completed. Partners are chosen based on well-established, documented success in the local community, with larger projects bidding in an RFP process or emerging through a strategic collective impact partnership.

During our strategic planning process, our Theory of Change helped us identify goals and outcomes in the short- and medium-term for our priority investment areas, as well as the strategies that would best support those outcomes.

Our 2024-2028 Strategic Plan

The final plan is organized by into “Strategic Support Areas” and “High Priorities” and “Strategic Support Areas.”

STRATEGIC SUPPORT AREAS

Strategic Support Areas are those where First 5 plans to stay apprised of efforts, ensure the prenatal to age 5 lens is accounted for when key groups are advocating and network-building around these issues, and assist others in amplifying messaging as needed.

- Basic Needs (housing, food security, livable wages, transportation)
- Early Literacy
- Nutrition & Physical Activity (and other lifestyle factors that support healthy bodies)
- Safety & Healing (addressing trauma, domestic and community violence, abuse and neglect)
- Substance Use Prevention & Treatment

HIGH PRIORITIES

High Priorities have been identified through the strategic planning process for First 5's core attention, through its capacities as funder, network-builder and advocate.

- Early Health Foundations
- Parent Engagement, Connection, and Education
- Early Learning and Child Care

Early Health Foundations

What is it?

Developmental screening, resources, and referral pathways for early intervention. Medical, vision, dental, and mental health screening, prevention and care.

Why is it important?

This was a top need identified through the needs assessment. Prenatal to age 5 is a critical time in a person's life for setting good health foundations. In addition, First 5 has a long track record of supporting this need, and there are opportunities to increase impact. To-date, First 5 has:

- Expanded developmental screenings and cultivated champions to advocate for this as a key best practice.

- Increased the evidence base around the benefits and challenges of screening in pediatric offices.
- Ensured that many young children receive developmental screenings and dental, medical, and optometric screening and care.

What are the Outcome Goals in this area?

Short-Term Outcomes

1. More families with children prenatal to age 5 are screened, referred, and receive early intervention to support optimal development, physical health, and mental health.
2. More families and providers are using early development resources and support.

Medium to Long Term Outcomes

3. Children experiencing any level of delay or impairment (including mild to moderate) have access to services.
4. Greater multilingual and multicultural capacity with a specific focus on primary Spanish- and Mixtec-speaking families, and other high-need populations.
5. Improved coordination of care including clearer referral pathways and more resource sharing.
6. Increased and more stable public financing for health/mental health supports for early childhood.

Parent Engagement, Connection and Education

What is it?

Helping parents and caregivers develop social support – connecting families to other families and to local resource providers – and parent skill-building.

Why is it important?

This was a top need identified through the needs assessment. Families are struggling to reconnect after the pandemic. First 5 has a history of supporting parent education through workshops, events, and resource distribution and is well positioned to expand efforts in this area.

What are the goals in this area?

Short-Term Outcomes

1. More families with children prenatal to age 5 participate in available parent education/ social connection programs and services.
2. More families have a strong network of support. This can include friends, family members, providers, teachers, and others.

3. Replicate promising programs (e.g., SCYC parent pods) in geographic areas and/or for specific groups where they don't exist.

Medium to Long Term Outcomes

4. Greater parent involvement in planning, implementation, and replication to ensure programs and policies are rooted in community context.
5. Increased parent leadership and advocacy on behalf of their needs and the needs of their children.

Early Learning and Child Care

What is it?

Quality early learning and child care in all its facets including full time, part-time, and nontraditional care as well as licensed center/family child care, non-licensed, recreational, school-based prekindergarten/transitional kindergarten, and Family Friend and Neighbor-based approaches.

Why is it important?

This was a top issue identified through the needs assessment. First 5 is well positioned to effect change in this area: we can build on past wins and there are few others who can support this work at the scale First 5 can. To date, First 5 has:

- Engaged diverse players who are effectively advocating for change on these issues.
- Increased the evidence base that supports increased investment and service options (through Child Care Study).
- Increased political and public will to act on and support these issues.
- Successfully advocated for allocating emergency Federal, state and local funding to child care supports.
- Advanced systems change and engaged the private sector by supporting the expansion of child friendly workplaces.
- Expanded preschool access for families.

What are the goals in this area?

Short-Term Outcomes

1. Increased awareness of the importance of child care as an issue for shared attention and responsibility among the private and public sectors.
2. More residents and community organizations across sectors are engaged in child care as an issue.
3. Greater alignment between early care and education sector and school districts now serving younger students.

Medium to Long Term Outcomes

4. Greater child care capacity (in unmet/targeted need areas – e.g. infant toddler, nontraditional hours).
5. More private sector businesses and public agencies are offering child care support.
6. Expanded capacity across community-serving organizations to coordinate child care infrastructure.
7. Increased/sustained public and private policies and funding to support child care.

Who We Hope to Be

As we take the first steps in implementing this plan, we do so as part of a powerful collective committed to the shared vision of a better, brighter, and healthier future for children and families in San Luis Obispo County – and across the state. The time is now. The challenges and opportunities that lie ahead will be met with unparalleled, steadfast resolve by First 5, which, for 25 years, has proven to be a leader, visionary, mobilizer, and movement maker in early-childhood systems (of care) and policy change. We press on with this work bearing a renewed sense of purpose and urgency for building a stronger community of support dedicated to enriching the lives of children and empowering families with the resources they need to thrive. Join us on the journey to identify, create, and activate solutions that ultimately benefit ALL of us!

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