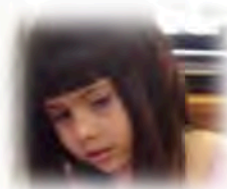


Children and Families Commission
of San Luis Obispo County

AND, HOW ARE THE CHILDREN?

FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
OUTCOME EVALUATION REPORT 2020



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And, how are the children?
Masai Greeting

The Strategic Plan

First 5 SLO County finished the last four-year strategic planning process with the publication of its Strategic Plan 2016-2020, *And, How Are the Children?* The Plan outlined the paths the Commission intended to take in continuing its legacy of investment and leadership in reinforcing the all-important beginning years of life for the youngest members of our community.

The Commission approved nearly \$9 million during the last four years for advocacy and funded programs in four key Priority Areas:

- **Perinatal Readiness**
- **Child Health and Development**
- **Early Learning**
- **Family Strengthening**

We also partnered with the CA State Commission in a five-year effort to ensure quality in early childhood services:

- **IMPACT SLO**

In all of our work we rely on many community partners to help young children get the optimal start in life. We want to ensure that the answer in SLO County to the question *And, how are the children?* is always *The children are well.*

Introduction

Program evaluation was mandated by the California Children's and Families First Act as an integral part of First 5's work. The Act required the State and County Commissions to use *outcome-based accountability to determine future expenditures*.

The State Commission's current role in evaluation is to review county annual reports and to collect and compile data to measure activities statewide. The County Commissions' roles in evaluation are:

- Adopt strategic plans with measurable outcomes
- Conduct local evaluation activities to document program activities and assess program results
- Prepare an annual audit and report covering implementation, progress toward program goals and objectives, and the measurement of specific outcomes

The data collected through the evaluation serve a number of purposes. They document the development and implementation of activities that are intended to benefit young children and their families. The data often provide feedback about how those activities might be improved or strengthened. And, the data demonstrate the results of the Commission's activities in improving the lives of the county's young children and their families.

The *First 5 SLO County Outcome Evaluation Report 2020* summarizes the data collected during 2019/20. It is organized by the two major sets of activities:

- 1) Advocacy Agenda
- 2) Funded Activities

These, in turn, are structured through the Commission's four Priority Areas: Perinatal Readiness; Child Health & Development; Early Learning; and Family Strengthening, along with IMPACT SLO, SLO County's implementation of the State's IMPACT initiative. For more detailed data and discussion, please see the Appendix to this report, *Evaluation Data Supplement 2020*.

Too often we give our children answers to remember rather than problems to solve.

Roger Lewin

Levels of Efficacy

Evaluation has played an increasingly important role in health, education, and social service programs. One result of this has been a growing body of literature supporting certain practices as having been proven to be effective. Due to the complex nature of this research, there are three such categories of efficacy that are generally thought to support the use of any given practice:

- **Evidence-based:** outcomes are proven through documented scientific research involving comparison and/or control groups
- **Evidence-informed:** based on a clearly articulated theory of change along with some outcome evaluation in multiple settings
- **Promising practice:** based on a clearly articulated theory of change with either some fidelity to an evidence-based practice or a general acceptance in the field as to its outcomes

The *Evaluation Plan 2020* seeks, when possible, to identify data that further validate the effectiveness of local activities.

Emerging Issues

Two issues emerged during the course of 2019/20 that profoundly affected our local communities, promoting action on the part of First 5 SLO County and its partners. COVID-19 affected all of us, and it drastically altered or shut down much of our work. The issues surrounding race, equity, diversity, and inclusion likewise commanded attention like never before. First 5 SLO County worked with its partners to address these emerging issues and their effects on the children and families in our communities.

COVID-19

Our Commissioners address the needs emerging from the pandemic through their professional lives and disciplines. From public health to social services to education, children and families were faced with new challenges this year, and our Commissioners and their colleagues are on the front lines in working to find solutions.

Our staff have regular contact with community partners to help us understand if and how the partners have had to shift or pivot their services in the wake of the pandemic. We have made allowances in deliverables that reflect these changes.

At the March 25, 2020 meeting (which was held online) the Commission took two steps directly related to the pandemic. The first was to approve an Emergency Response Funding Policy that outlined the mechanisms whereby the Commission can address emergencies immediately. The second was the approval of the allocation of up to \$75,000 in emergency funds to address the impacts of COVID-19 on local partners through a partnership with the Community Foundation's Disaster Support Fund. *Slightly over \$61,000 was distributed to family-serving nonprofit organizations to support the immediate needs of our region's most vulnerable residents. Grants are for general operating support to provide organizations with flexibility to best serve their constituents during the disaster.* The Associate Director was actively involved in reviewing grant applications under this initiative.

*Enjoy the little things in life...
for one day you'll look
back and realize they were
the big things.*

Robert Brault

The Pandemic

Life isn't the same now as it was at the beginning of 2020. Many of the things we thought we'd be doing are no longer safe to do. But, since our needs have not been reduced (in fact, they've been increased!), we need to find new ways to meet them.

First 5 SLO County, our partners, and the children and families we all serve are searching for new ways to meet old needs, as well as address the needs that are emerging as a result of COVID-19. Almost none of us are doing business as usual, but all of us are looking to adapt in safe and effective manners.

First 5 SLO County has adapted in a number of ways. Staff alternate days at the office, working from home on the other days. Our meetings have gone online. Our contact with partners and our families have largely gone digital as well. We've joined other community partners in advocating for young children and their families in addressing new needs. And, we've allocated special funding to help our partners and our families get through the early days of what may be our "new normal."

Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The events of the past year have challenged First 5's across California, including SLO County, to develop a deeper understanding of the underlying issues associated with race, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and to commit to building advocacy and program investments that help create a more just society for our next generation.

The following four activities undertaken by First 5 SLO County offer examples of our advocacy and systems-change work in this critical area:

- First 5 SLO County has been an active promoter of U.S. Census 2020, conducting outreach and education activities to under-represented and hard-to-count communities.
- First 5 SLO County along with the Central Coast Breastfeeding Coalition and Raise Up SLO co-hosted an online screening of the documentary film *Chocolate Milk*, a profile of experiences by black breastfeeding mothers and lactation-support professionals. The film was followed by a Q&A with the film's director and a panel of local residents who engaged in discussions regarding women of color and their breastfeeding experiences, needs, and supports.
- Our Executive Director facilitated the development of SLO County UndocuSupport, a coalition to raise and distribute money to provide fiscal relief to undocumented and mixed-status families who were left out of federal stimulus and other COVID-19 support activities. Immigrants, many of them undocumented, do essential work that sustains us all. In the state of California the undocumented represent 10% of the workforce who paid approximately \$2.5 billion in state and local taxes in 2019. Under this program families received between \$300 and \$500 to help them meet basic needs.
- First 5 SLO County participated in the SLO County Farmworker Outreach Task Force, a public and private partnership to outreach to, educate, and offer support to ensure the continued safety of our community. The task force distributed more than 1,600 culturally-appropriate COVID-19 prevention flyers and kits.

*A lot of different flowers
make a bouquet.*

Islamic Proverb

What Matters

Waves of protest swept the nation during the spring and summer of 2020 after police killed George Floyd in Minneapolis. Issues related to race, equity, diversity, and inclusion were front and center causing governments, businesses, and individuals to reflect and, in many cases, to take action to address them.

The underlying message of social justice is that equal and fair treatment of all of us is what matters. But, it takes more than eliminating unjust or discriminatory practices. We need policies and systems that ensure fairness for all.

Nearly every indicator across key areas in early childhood development shows a gap in outcomes, particularly related to race and ethnicity. If our children are to have equal opportunities we must address systemic barriers that affect some of us more than others. Intentional or not, these barriers must be identified and eliminated. Through the development of universal goals for all children, and the use of targeted strategies to support children, families, and communities that face the most systemic barriers, we can move beyond the old ways of doing business that hold back so many of our children and families.

Advocacy Agenda

The Children's Bill of Rights & General Advocacy

What Did We Accomplish?

- First 5 SLO County selected 12 *Hands-On Heroes* during 2019/20. The first six were aligned with one of the Rights, and the second six were from early care and education in support of *We Are the Care*. The campaign featured videos about each of the heroes that were disseminated through SLOCOE's cable television channel, the First 5 website, social media, and other media platforms.
- The heroes were: Laurinda Wagner (Cuesta College Raising a Reader) – Noa Kamplain & Kira Guillermo (Outside Now) - Sylvia Armendariz (Georgia Brown Elementary School) - Sara McGrath (Parents Helping Parents) - Alora Turley (Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast) - Magda Macilla (Promotores Collaborative of SLO County) - Denise Buenrostro (Parent) - Kelsey Sullivan (Learning Tree Preschool) - Carmnen Castañeda (Atascadero Children's Center) - Shana Paulson (Child Care Resource Connection) - Child Care Education Professionals (SLO County) - and Parents, Grandparents and Families (SLO County).

Talk. Read. Sing.

What Did We Accomplish?

- First 5 SLO County's *Talk. Read. Sing.* builds on statewide advertising and materials. *Talk. Read. Sing. Time Friday* continued to stream into local homes every Friday morning, delighting children with a live 20-minute Facebook show full of stories, songs, and general fun. When the pandemic hit the show went daily with "guest hosts" filling in for our Associate Director. First 5 funded partners, as well as nurses, librarians, school principals, and other youth took the reins in educating homebound children.
- *Talk. Read. Sing.* promotions included: sponsorship of the *Kidz Zone* and a *Talk. Read. Sing.* night at the San Luis Blues baseball game; *Talk. Read. Sing.* sponsorships of Cal Poly Mustangs "Family Nights" at basketball, football, and soccer games; and presentations at father engagement activities hosted by CAPSLO.

If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much.

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

Why Is This Important?

Children's futures depend to a large degree on the decisions that adults make on their behalf. Parents do their best, but it is policy and decision makers that allocate resources for specific activities that impact health, education, and social-service programs that serve young children and their families.

First 5 SLO County works hard to serve children, but resources are simply insufficient, and the Commission must make difficult choices as to which needs are prioritized and to what extent they are addressed.

As part of a balanced approach, First 5 SLO County has identified Advocacy themes that are aligned with the priorities identified in the Strategic Plan. The Commission has also supported specific activities that meet their two-pronged definition of Advocacy. By raising awareness in the broader community and by working to support specific policies and systems changes, First 5 SLO County hopes to bring more resources to bear in ensuring that young children and their families are supported in reaching their maximum potential.

Priority Areas

Perinatal Readiness Advocacy

What Did We Accomplish?

Expanded Home Visiting Options for New Families

- Helped facilitate County Public Health submission of a \$200,000 grant application to First 5 CA for Home Visiting Coordination (grant awarded in summer 2020).

Child Health & Development Advocacy

What Did We Accomplish?

Stronger Alignment of Systems that Track and Address Developmental Milestones in Young Children

- SLO County *Help Me Grow* grew considerably during 2019/20. The 3 by 3 Developmental Screening Partnership became operational with developmental screenings becoming a part of well-child visits at the SLO Clinic of Community Health Centers and Dr. Rene Bravo's pediatric practice.
- The *Help Me Grow* Central Access Point at CAPSLO was funded and began operation at the close of 2019/20. It is a countywide system that provides free developmental screenings and linkages to services.

Early Learning Advocacy

What Did We Accomplish?

Community Investment in Quality and Affordable Access to Early Childhood Education

- *We Are the Care* is a collective of early childhood professionals, people from the business community, government employees and officials, and families who are collaborating to address our local childcare crisis. Its three task forces (Cross-sector Collaboration, Local Government Engagement, and Public Awareness) are working to expand childcare opportunities throughout SLO County.
- First 5 SLO County along with local governments and schools launched the Public Sector Child Care Study, a project to identify ways in which public entities could incorporate childcare for their employees.

Family Strengthening Advocacy

What Did We Accomplish?

Increased Culture of Family-Friendly Workplaces that Support Young Families

- Through *We Are the Care* First 5 SLO County worked with local partners including chambers of commerce, small businesses, and the Child Care Planning Council to begin the development of a Family-Friendly Workplace Toolkit to assist businesses in assessing current practices, identifying opportunities for change, and connecting to local resources to take advantage of the benefits of family-friendly workplaces.

Funded Programs

Perinatal Readiness Priority Area

First 5 SLO County funded three programs/activities under this Priority Area in 2019/20.

- **BABES (Babes at Breast Education and Support):** the Public Health Department provided two support services to help women successfully breastfeed their children. Both were offered at WIC clinics throughout SLO County: 1) certified lactation consultation; and 2) peer counseling. Both lactation consultation and peer support are **Evidence-based Practices**.
- **Baby's First Breath:** the Public Health Department provided tobacco cessation services for pregnant women and parents and other family members of children, 0-5, in order to prevent the children's exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. Tobacco cessation counseling has been researched, and is an **Evidence-Based Adjunct** to California's population-based cessation strategies.
- **Perinatal Mental Health Support Services:** the Center for Family Strengthening worked to build capacity in the county to identify and address issues related to mood disorders in new parents. They contracted with Pregnancy & Parenting Support of SLO County to provide direct services for parents who are encountering mood disorders during or after pregnancy, including support groups, individual counseling, and a telephone Support Line. Both capacity building and the Support Line are **Promising Practices**.

A person's a person, no matter how small.

Dr. Seuss

Why Is This Important?

Getting ready for a baby doesn't happen on the way home from the hospital. The perinatal period begins the moment a woman realizes she is pregnant and continues through the first six months of the child's life.

Many things go into Perinatal Readiness, ranging from the mother's health to home safety, from the parents'/caregivers' relationship to finances.

A number of different services can help prepare for a new child, including: obstetrical care, dental care, health coverage, pediatric care, healthcare navigation, home visitation, tobacco cessation counseling, parenting education, nutritional counseling and fitness support, counseling and mental health services, financial support, early literacy, father involvement, and lactation education and support. Some families need help in a few areas, some need help in all areas.

The important thing is that the family (whether a single mother and her first child to a multi-generational extended family) is ready to help the child get the best start possible.

BABES (Babes at Breast Education and Support)

Annual Funding \$179,370

What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- Women who received peer support were 50% MORE LIKELY to report EXCLUSIVE breastfeeding at six months than women without peer support, and 47% MORE LIKELY to report ANY breastfeeding.
- COVID-19: Had a significant impact on the services provided by BABES. Beginning in mid-March 2020 all face-to-face contacts ceased. Both the Lactation Consultant and Peer Counselor conducted their support by telephone and text message.

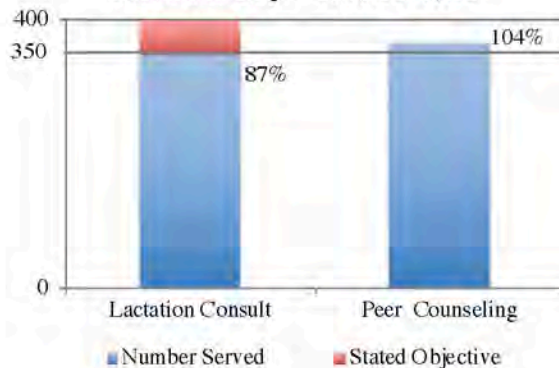
Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to provide lactation consulting services to at least 400 unduplicated breastfeeding mothers, annually, at five satellite WIC clinics.

2019/20
348 women counseled – 87% of objective

Objective 2A: Through June 30, 2020 to provide individual mother-to-mother peer support at WIC clinics for at least 350 unduplicated pregnant and breastfeeding women annually.

2019/20
364 women received peer support – 104% of objective

Number of Women Receiving Breastfeeding Support, Served & Objective, 2019/20



Objective 2B: By June 30, 2019 & 2020 annual reports will show: at least 60.6% of women participating in peer counseling are breastfeeding at 6 months; and 2) at least 25.5% of women participating in peer counseling are EXCLUSIVELY breastfeeding at 6 months.

2019/20
69% ANY breastfeeding @ 6 mos – 114% of objective
43% EXCLUSIVE breastfeeding @ 6 mos – 167% of objective

BABES PC breastfeeding rates compare favorably to the objectives set by Healthy People 2020. The EXCLUSIVE breastfeeding rate is 167% of the objective, and the ANY breastfeeding rate is 114% of the objective.

The Last Four Years

Due to the shrinking population of WIC participants the objectives for BABES were adjusted downward midway through this Strategic Plan period. Lactation Consultation went from 600 women per year to 400, and Peer Support went from 400 women to 350. The mean number of women receiving each service was: LC - 422; and PS - 327.

Outcomes for Peer Support, BF at 6 months have consistently been above the Healthy People 2020 objectives: ANY BF - mean 66%, or 8% above; and EXCLUSIVE BF - 43%, or 68% above.

Percent BABES PC Women Breastfeeding at 6 Months vs Healthy People 2020 Objectives, 2019/20



Baby's First Breath (Tobacco Cessation)

Annual Funding \$55,000

What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- 30 persons participated in cessation counseling in 2019/20: 80% parents & other family members and 20% pregnant women.
- COVID-19: had a significant impact on the services provided by BFB. All cessation services to this population ceased in mid-March, though cessation services to the general population were conducted via digital formats.

Objective 1A: Through June 30, 2020 to provide tobacco cessation services to at least 70 pregnant women and/or parents & family members of children, 0-5, annually.

2019/20
 30 received cessation counseling
 43% of objective

Number of Pregnant Women, Parents, and Other Family Members in Tobacco Cessation, Served & Objective, 2019/20



During 2019/20:

- Seventy-five percent (75%) of those in counseling received Nicotine Replacement Therapy in support of their cessation.
- All of participants this year were POEG clients (100%).

The Last Four Years

Referrals and number of clients served have been decreasing during the past four years compared to the four years prior. The mean number of referrals for the past four years was 39, down 43% from 2012/13 to 2015/16 (69). The number of clients served was 42, down 44% (76).

BFB has provided groups almost exclusively at POEG sites (Perinatal Outreach Extended Group) operated by SLO County Drug & Alcohol Services. Challenges have included sites shifting their interest in hosting the program, limiting the amount of time available.

Individual sessions were provided to those persons not in POEG, though there were no individual sessions offered in 2019/20.

Objective 1B: By June 30, 2019 & 2020 annual reports will show at least a 25% tobacco quit rate at six months after cessation program enrollment.

2019/20

Follow-up sampling rates were quite low. The rate at six months was 36% (11 of 31 clients from last year), rendering the resultant quit rate to be less than reliable. Therefore, no quit rates are reported for 2019/20, nor have they been in the last four years.

Perinatal Mental Health Support Services

Annual Funding \$6,767

What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- One support group was started in Paso Robles at the Housing Authority's Oak Park Housing complex. One session was held with 5-10 attendees before the group was halted due to COVID-19. Two existing groups (Nipomo and San Miguel) met regularly during the first three quarters, Nipomo twice a month and San Miguel once a month.
- COVID-19: had a significant impact on the services provided by Pregnancy & Parenting Support (PPS). All support groups ceased in mid-March. In-person contacts were made on an individual by-appointment basis using Personal Protective Equipment. They reported 197 individual contacts in this manner, though it is unclear how many of the contacts were related to issues related to perinatal mood and anxiety as opposed to other support offered by PPS.

Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to provide at least 4 semi-monthly co-facilitated peer support groups, annually, for parents experiencing perinatal mental health issues.

Groups were started in 1 community during 2019/20 in the third quarter. The Paso Robles group met one time before being closed due to the pandemic. The reported attendance at that meeting was "5-10" parents.



The Last Four Years

The program underwent a total overhaul in 2018/19 moving to a support group modality from a telephone support line. Four groups in four different communities were started, three in 2018/19 (San Luis Obispo, Nipomo, and San Miguel), and one in 2019/20 (Paso Robles).

There have been a number of challenges, including language (Mixteco in San Miguel), lack of interest on the part of parents (San Luis Obispo), and distrust (Nipomo). Two of the groups managed to continue meeting, one once-a-month, and one two-times per month.

Objective 2: Through June 30, 2020 to provide 5 sessions of immediate professional counseling for parents, annually, who are experiencing perinatal mood and anxiety disorders.

2019/20
16 counseling sessions provided
320% of objective

18 parents received 16 sessions of counseling. 156 parents received information about perinatal mood and anxiety disorders.

Child Health & Development Priority Area

First 5 SLO County funded seven programs/activities under this Priority Area in 2019/20.

- **BEST PALS (Behavior Education Screening Parenting and Life Skills):** Pediatric Physical Therapy And Services, Inc. operates a program of developmental and behavioral assessments and short-term treatment for children with mild-to-moderate delays who do not qualify for services elsewhere (**Evidence-Informed**).
- **County Oral Health Program Manager:** the Public Health Department provides: 1) coordination of and support for the Oral Health Coalition; 2) screening and preventive services to children; and 3) oral health education for parents and caregivers (**Evidence-Informed to Evidence-based Practices**).
- **Health Access Trainer:** the Carsel Consulting Group provides wide-ranging health-related professional development for anyone who works with children, 0-5, and their families (a **Promising Practice**).
- **Help Me Grow:** Two projects work to expand early developmental screening. The 3 X 3 Developmental Screening Partnership involves local providers testing methods for integrating early developmental screening into different systems. The project is funded by an Innovation Grant from County Behavioral Health, and is undergoing an independent evaluation. The Centralized Access Point (CAP) will connect families whose children are identified through expanded screening with local resources. The CAP launched two weeks prior to the end of 2019/20.
- **Tolosa Children's Dental Center Central Region Dental Access:** operates a children's dental clinic in the city of SLO to provide a dental home for low-income children. First 5 SLO County funds support preventive treatment. Oral health preventive services are an (**Evidence-based Practice**).
- **Vision Screening:** Optometric Care Associates operates a program to screen children, 2-5, for vision problems, and then refers them for treatment, if indicated (**Evidence-Based Practices**).

Children are the hands by which we take hold of heaven.

Henry Ward Beecher

Why Is This Important?

It may be obvious that a young child's health and development are important. Growth, learning, and development are maximized when there is strong general health, good oral health, and regular achievement of milestones, physical, behavioral and emotional. Issues with health and development in a child can impede learning and growth, and can have long-lasting effects.

Health insurance may be available to all children in California, but coverage does not ensure access. In SLO County obtaining healthcare for children on Medi-Cal can be challenging, as systems can be complex and difficult to navigate.

Children undergo development in areas ranging from social-emotional growth to physical growth. Any delays, if not addressed, can also have lasting consequences.

Activities that support early health and development, as well as those that seek early identification of those who need care, are critical to helping families ensure that their children get the best possible start.

BEST PALS (Behavior Education Screening Parenting and Life Skills)

What Did We Accomplish?

Annual Funding \$22,500

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- Of the 41 children with closed cases this year 7 (18%) completed treatment. 29 (70%) were connected with a safety-net provider, either at intake (1, or 2%) or at end of treatment with BEST PALS (28, or 68%). The other 5 children (12%) left treatment early.

88% of BEST PALS children received the treatment they needed

- COVID-19: Had a significant impact on the services provided by BEST PALS. Beginning in mid-March 2020 all face-to-face contacts ceased.

Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to provide developmental assessments to at least 52 children, 0-5, annually, with possible mild developmental and/or behavioral delays.

2019/20

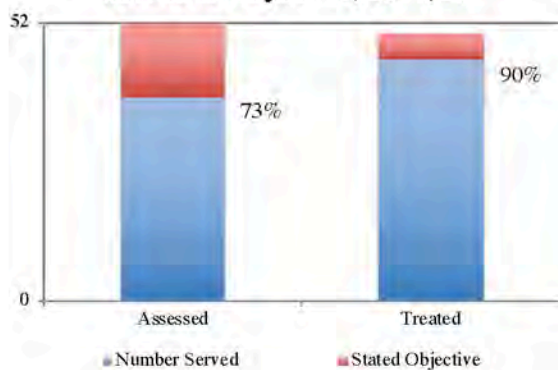
38 children assessed – 73% of objective

Objective 2A: Through June 30, 2020 to provide treatment for mild delays to at least 50 children, 0-5, (and/or their parents), annually.

2019/20

45 children treated – 90% of objective

Number of Children Assessed & Treated, Served & Objective, 2019/20

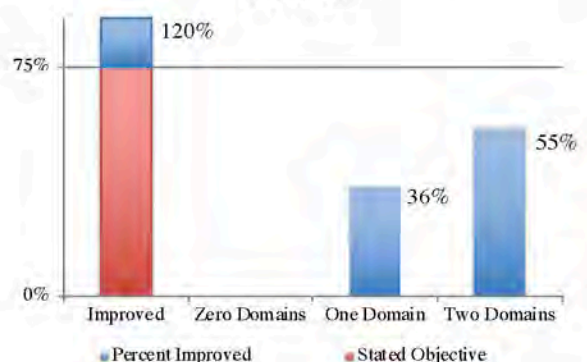


Objective 2B: Through June 30, 2020 at least 75% of children completing a minimum of 6 interventions will demonstrate improvement of at least one level in relevant a domain(s) on the Developmental Assessment of Young Children (DAYC).

2019/20

90% of children treated and closed improved – 120% of objective

Percent of Children Improved on DAYC, and Number of Domains of Improvement 2019/20



The Last Four Years

The number of referrals, assessments, and children in treatment with BEST PALS has been lower the past four years that in the past. The mean number of assessments in the last four years was 44, while in the prior four years it was 62. Same for children in treatment, 44 versus 58.

Success for BEST PALS can range from helping a child overcome a delay to establishing a child's eligibility for long-term treatment at a safety-net provider and connecting the child with that provider. During the past four years the mean success rate as so defined was 88%.

County Oral Health Program Manager

Annual Funding \$40,000

What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- 549 children were screened with 91% of them receiving oral health preventive care in the form of fluoride varnishes.
- 349 parents received education about oral health in their children.
- COVID-19: had a significant impact on the services provided by the COHPM. All direct prevention and education services ceased in mid-March. Meetings, outreach, and policy work continued through telephone and digital formats.

Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to implement at least 3-5 policy/ systems-changes strategies from the goals identified in the SLO County Children's Oral Health Strategic Plan related to Prevention and Treatment Access.

2019/20

0 systems changes – 0% of objective

The Oral Health Coalition met 4 times with a mean attendance of 14. The COHPM targeted three areas: Outreach (140 meetings); Access to Oral Health Care (103 meetings); and Other (workforce development and COVID-19 related – 30 meetings).

Objective 2A: Through June 30, 2020 to provide preventive oral health services to at least 1,100 low-income children, 0-5, annually.

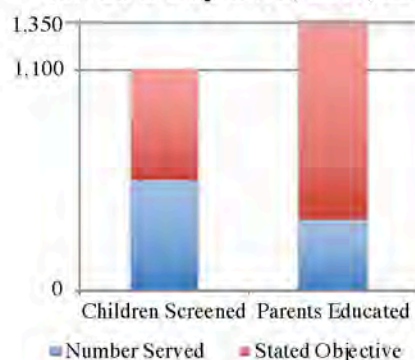
Objective 2B: Through June 30, 2020 to provide education about children's preventive dental care to at least 1,350 parents of children, 0-5, annually.

2019/20

549 children screened – 50% of objective

349 parents educated – 26% of objective

Number of Children with Preventive Oral Health Services and Number of Parents Being Educated Served & Objective, 2019/20



The Last Four Years

The COHPM's duties have evolved over the course of the past eight years. While originally focused on direct services (e.g., screening and prevention) the emphasis changed to policy and systems change in 2013/14, resulting in changes in the direct services by the COHPM, which were backfilled by part-time staff. This changed with the hiring of a DDS as COHPM, who took on the bulk of the direct services. Upon his departure a new COHPM was hired who focused on coordinating the ever-increasing oral health activities through the Public Health Department. While she performed direct services in the past two years, those have been increasingly assumed by other staff. The mean children screened in the two full years under the DDS was 1,263, while the mean for the next two years was 747. The mean number of parents educated for the first interval was 1,153, while for the second it was 407.

Health Access Trainer

Annual Funding \$34,260

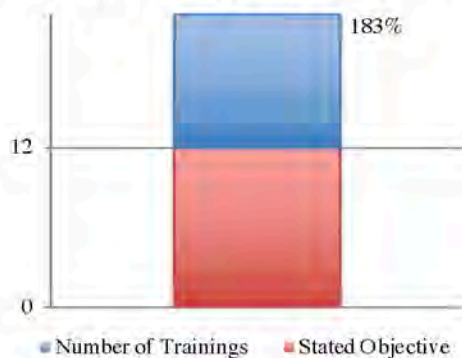
What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Health Access Trainer provided 22 professional development opportunities to 375 child-serving professionals in 2019/20.
- COVID-19: had a significant impact on the activities undertaken by HAT. No in-person trainings could be held. In the fourth quarter the focus was on releasing newsletters that addressed the impacts of and services related to the pandemic. Plans for virtual health-access trainings were formulated, and are expected to begin in the fall.

Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to provide at least 12 professional development activities, annually, to increase capacity in SLO County to connect children, 0-5, with available healthcare services.

2019/20
22 trainings offered – 183% of objective
Number of Health-related Professional Development Trainings, Actual & Objective, 2019/20



The following trainings were offered:

- *Forging Links in a Time of Fear: Connecting Immigrant Families to Services* was offered 1 time for 120 participants.
- *Changes to Public Charge* was offered 7 times for 83 participants.
- *Census 2020* was offered 14 time for 172 participants.

The HAT published 13 newsletters, and distributed them to a list of up to 434 providers, and the SLOHealthAccess website was kept updated with local resources and information, including updates on immigration and Affordable Care Act, an updated directory of Family Resource Centers, and upcoming training announcements. Three of the newsletters during the spring concerned a project developed in SLO County by multiple agencies, including First 5; *Disaster Relief for Immigrant Families* provided cash support for immigrant families ineligible for public services to help them address emergency issues caused by the pandemic.

The Last Four Years

During the past four years the HAT has averaged 16 trainings per year (14% of the stated objective).

One of the strengths of the program is its ability to respond quickly to emerging issues. Three examples are the changes to Medi-Cal transportation policies in 2017/18, the proposed changes to federal policies regarding Public Charge in 2018/19, and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019/20. Through trainings and newsletters the HAT has endeavored to keep families and service providers up to date on issues related to health-care access.

Tolosa Children’s Dental Center Central Region Dental Access

What Did We Accomplish?

Annual Funding \$29,500

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- 172 children, 0-5, received preventive dental care in 2019/20. Of the 43 new children, 35 (81%) were making their first visit to a dentist at the SLO clinic.
- The majority of the children at the clinic come from SLO (52%), but a sizable percentage come from elsewhere: Coastal Region - 30% and South County - 17%; and), reflecting a lack of capacity for dental care in other areas of the county.
- Tolosa was able to make better use of its new facility, expanding preventive care to two chairs instead of only one.
- COVID-19: had an impact on the program in three ways. They were closed for two-and-a-half months during the initial stages of the pandemic. Once they reopened changes in procedures impacted the number of appointments that can be scheduled in a day. Recruitment of staff, already challenging, was made more difficult.

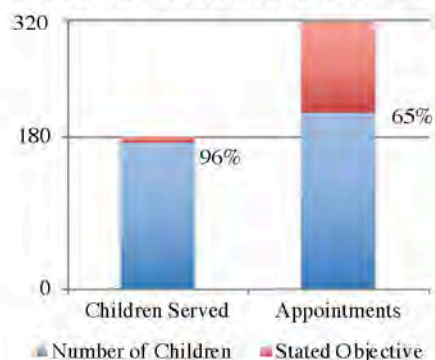
Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to contribute to providing a dental home to at least 180 children, 0-5, annually in the Central Coast Region through up to 320 preventive dental care appointments.

2019/20

172 children treated – 96% of objective

209 appointments – 70% of objective

Number of Children w/ Preventive Services & Number of Appointments, Served & Objective, 2019/20



The Last Four Years

The past four years has seen changes in the program, perhaps the greatest of which was the move to a new facility in 2018/19. While providing the potential for significant expansion beyond the one day per week at the prior facility, realizing that potential has proven to be challenging. This is primarily due to the difficulty in recruiting dental providers. That began to change in the fourth quarter of 2019/20 when the center was able to provide services two days per week.

Despite the pandemic the number of children seen was highest in 2019/20. The 172 was 19% higher than the mean for the prior three years (145). The number of appointments (209), however, was 38% lower (276).

Vision Screening

Annual Funding \$30,000

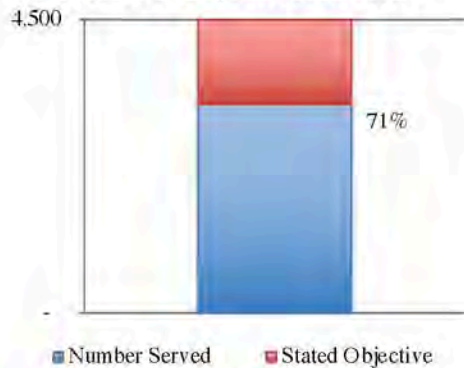
What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- 3,189 children, 2-5, were screened for having vision problems with 10% (330) being identified as needing treatment. 90% of the children identified as having a vision problem (297) were successfully linked with vision treatment.
- COVID-19: had a significant impact on vision screening. The program was shut down for the entire fourth quarter.

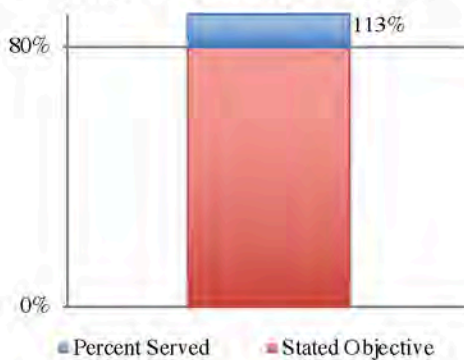
Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to provide vision screening to at least 4,500 children, 2-5, annually.

2019/20
3,189 children screened – 71% of objective
**Number of Children Screened for Vision Problems,
 Served & Objective, 2019/20**



Objective 2: Through June 30, 2020 to refer screened children with vision disorders such that at least 80% of them connect with needed treatment.

2019/20
90% children treated – 113% of objective
**Number of Children Linked to Treatment for Vision Problems,
 Served & Objective, 2019/20**



The Last Four Years

The number of children screened through the program has varied between 3,960 and 4,901 in the three years prior to this one. The relatively low number this year is only slightly a reflection of COVID-19 since 63% to 80% of the screenings take place in the second (fall) quarter.

The percent of children identified as having vision issues (19%) is higher than the mean of the prior three years (14%), but is not historically unprecedented.

The 90% rate of referred children who were linked to care is 11% higher than the mean for the prior three years. It is, in fact, the highest percentage in the 19 years of the program's operation.

Early Learning Priority Area

First 5 SLO County funded three programs/activities under this Priority Area in 2019/20.

- Early Learning for All (ELFA):** the SLO County Office of Education's ELFA program offers professional development opportunities for ECE providers throughout SLO County, as well as serving as an advocate for early childhood education and development. Professional development is considered an **Evidence-Based Practice**.

First 5/California State Preschools (CSPP) Program: CSPPs are located at eight sites throughout the county. Their ten classrooms offer high-quality preschool to families who can meet the income requirements. Under this program First 5 SLO County subsidizes families who are above the CSPP threshold. This allows full enrollment at the sites, and serves families who might not otherwise be able to afford preschool for their children. Quality preschool is considered an **Evidence-Based Practice**.
- SR Site Coordinators:** employed by their school districts, they are responsible for monitoring all SR activities, as well as directly offering a number of them. They work closely with SR partners and regularly coordinate with the school principals, teachers, and staff. The programming they offer includes transition programs, parent education and support, and acting as single-points-of-contact for families. SR Site Coordinators are considered an **Evidence-Based Practice**.

Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.

Margaret Mead

Why Is This Important?

Children are born with all of the brain cells they are ever going to have. It's the connections between the cells that grow and develop over time, and it's what those cells and connections learn to do that determines all that a person will become.

Research is discovering the immense importance of early learning. By age 3 a child's brain is 80% developed. From birth talking, reading, singing, hugging, rocking, and dancing with a child all help her brain develop.

The number of words a young child hears is directly related to how well he will read in school. The more words, the better.

But, there are other aspects of development that are also critical to a child's readiness for school. The experience, management, and expression of emotions and the ability to form positive and rewarding relationships with others are even better predictors of success in school than a child's cognitive skills and family background. High-quality early care and education set the stage for school. And, preschools and schools need to be ready for children, too.

ELFA (Early Learning for All)

Annual Funding \$44,409

What Did We Accomplish?

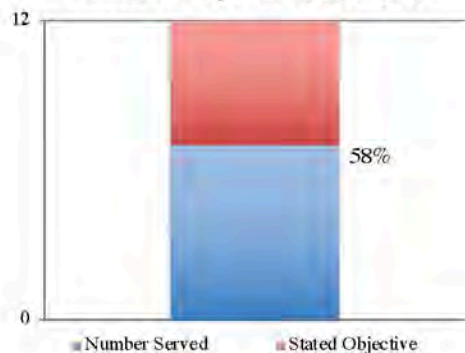
DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- 7 professional development activities were conducted in 2019/20. They were attended by 167 (duplicated) ECE professionals.
- COVID-19: had a significant impact on ELFA. Three training opportunities were canceled and/or delayed, including the spring ELFA meeting, a CPIN training on English-language development, and the Mantle of Leadership. The program adapted to the pandemic by moving 2 trainings online.

Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to provide at least 12 professional development activities, annually, in Early Childhood Education (ECE).

2019/20
7 professional development activities provided
58% of objective

Number of Professional Development Activities, Actual & Objective, 2019/20



The Last Four Years?

The last four years have seen a mean of 11.3 trainings, or 94% of the stated objective. If the three trainings in 2019/20 were not canceled due to the pandemic the mean would have been 12, or 100% of the stated objective.

The trainings included: 15 CPIN on a variety of subjects; 7 SEFEL; 6 ELFA meetings; 4 TK Network; 3 Mantle of Leadership; 3 Pyjama Drama; 1 Family Engagement; and 1 Hop on the Bus.

- No (0) SEFEL (Social-Emotional Foundations of Learning) trainings were provided in 2019/20, but 2 Pyjama Drama trainings (43 attendees) did focus on social-emotional learning. 4 CPIN (California Preschool Instructional Network) trainings were held: Visual & Performing Arts (19 attendees); Children's Health (17); STEM (54); and Inclusion Work (17). 1 Pyjama Drama training for 16 providers focused on Being an Incredible Preschool Teacher. And, the fall ELFA meeting concerned the Math Substrands of the California Preschool Learning Foundations and Frameworks.

First 5/California State Preschools Program

Annual Funding \$192,104

What Did We Accomplish?

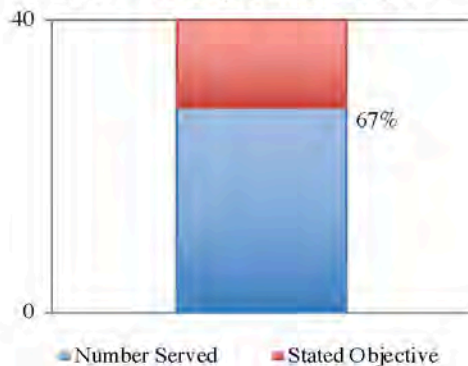
DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- 28 students whose parents were "over income" were enrolled at 9 of the 10 California State Preschool Program (CSPP) classrooms. The 10 classrooms averaged 94% of capacity.
- 97% of the students entering school achieved *Building or Integrating* on average on the DRDP-2015.
- COVID-19: did not have significant impact on the number of children enrolled, however, there were no in-person classes. Teachers responded in various ways, including Zoom classes, preparation of "busy bags" to be sent home to keep children occupied, and phone and email contacts.

Objective 1A: Through June 30, 2020 to provide three-hour preschool programming at ten CSPP sites for up to 40 children, ages 3-5, annually, whose parents are above the CSPP income-eligibility rate.

2019/20
 28 children enrolled
 67% of objective

Number of Students Enrolled from Families "Over-income," Served & Objective, 2019/20



The Last Four Years

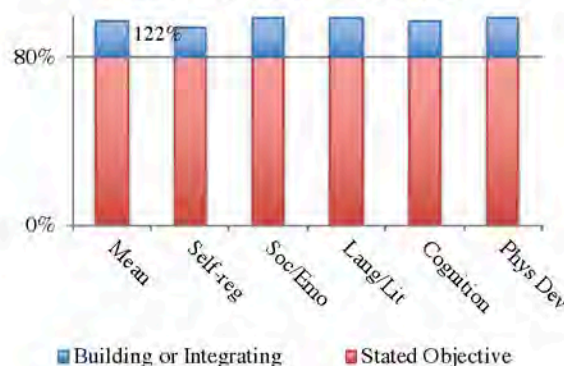
The program was started in 2017/18, replacing the First 5 Preschool Program, as a way to spread seats for children from "over-income" families throughout the county. The first two years saw 38 and 37 children participate, while in 2019/20 the number was down to 28.

Children involved in the CSPP clearly benefit, as the percentage of children who leave the program for kindergarten who are judged "ready for school" (as determined through the DRDP-2015) has averaged 95% in the past four years.

Objective 1B: By June 30, 2019 & 2020 at least 80% of participating four-year-olds will be prepared to enter kindergarten as measured by the Desired Results Development Profile-2015 (DRDP-2015).

Mean Item Scores Overall & in the Five Domains of the DRDP-2015, Actual & Objective, 2019/20

2019/20
 97% prepared to enter school
 122% of objective



School Readiness Site Coordinators

Annual Funding \$104,381 (GB) - \$97,585 (Oc)

Family Support

What Did We Accomplish?

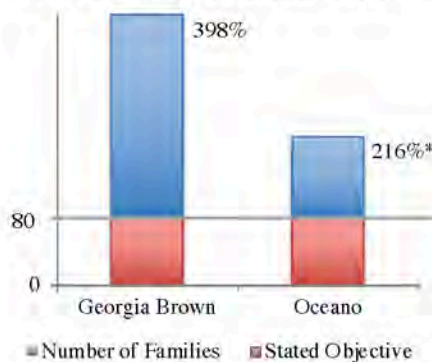
DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Georgia Brown Site Coordinator reported working as a single-point-of-contact with 318 families in 2019/20, reporting 1,033 contacts with or about these families, for a mean of 3.2 contacts per family.
- School transition was covered in just over half of the Georgia Brown contacts (53%), with translation accounting for 20% of the contacts.
- The Oceano Site Coordinator reported working as a single-point-of-contact with 116 families in the first half of 2019/20*, reporting 224 contacts with or about these families (a mean of 1.9 per family).
- Breakfast and lunch programs for children in the community accounted for 63% of the contacts. School transition was an issue for 19%.
- COVID-19 had a significant impact on the work of the Coordinators as all in-person activity ceased.

Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to serve as a single-point-of-contact for at least 80 unduplicated families, annually, in the Georgia Brown/ Oceano school-communities.



Mean Number of Families Contacted and/or Referred, Served & Objective, 2019/20



* The Oceano SR Coordinator only submitted data for the first two quarters. The number is extrapolated for three quarters, and the percentage is calculated for four.

The Last Four Years

The SR Site Coordinators increased the number of families they served over the course of the last four years. At Georgia Brown the number went from 103 in 2016/17 to 318 in 2019/20. The four-year mean was 210 families.

At Oceano Elementary the number of families in 2016/17 was 111 while in 2019/20 there were 116 served in the first six months. Extrapolating from the first two quarters about 300 families were served this year. The four-year mean was 209 families.

School Readiness Site Coordinators

Annual Funding \$104,381 (GB) - \$97,585 (Oc)

Early Education and Literacy

What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Georgia Brown Site Coordinator reported 55 *Literatura de la Familia* groups in 2019/20, for 109 unduplicated children and 70 unduplicated parents.
- The Oceano Site Coordinator reported 19 *Hora de Literatura* groups in 2019/20*, for 43 unduplicated children and 37 unduplicated parents.
- COVID-19 had a significant impact on the work of the Coordinators as all in-person activity ceased.

Objective 2: Through June 30, 2020 to provide at least 80 groups in early learning/family literacy/parent engagement, annually, to at least 70 unduplicated families (children, 0-5, and parents).

2019/20

Georgia Brown:

55 early literacy groups held – 69% of objective

70 families participated – 100% of objective

Oceano

28 early literacy groups held – 35% of objective*

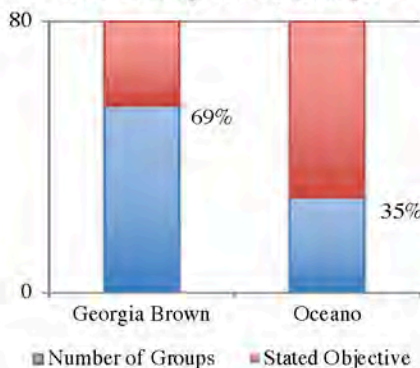
47 families participated – 67% of objective*

The Last Four Years

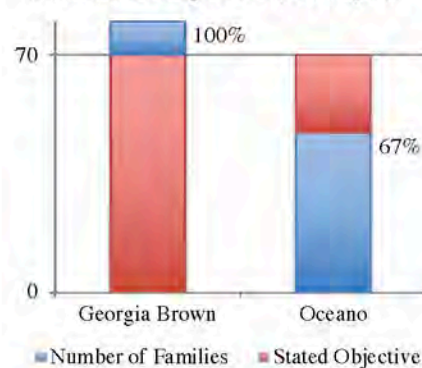
The mean number of family literacy groups in Georgia Brown the past four years was 75. There was a low of 55 this year due to the pandemic. The groups were attended by a mean of 77 parents.

The mean number of groups in Oceano was 34. The mean number of participating families was 35.

Number of Groups, Actual & Objective, 2019/20



Number of Families, Served & Objective, 2019/20



* The Oceano SR Coordinator only submitted data for the first two quarters. The number is extrapolated for three quarters, and the percentage is calculated for four.

School Readiness Site Coordinators

Annual Funding \$104,381 (GB) - \$97,585 (Oc)

Parent Education

What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Georgia Brown Site Coordinator reported 32 sessions of *Cuentos Familiares* groups in 2019/20, for 212 unduplicated parents.
- The Oceano Site Coordinator reported 29 sessions of *First 5 Fridays* in 2019/20, for 29 unduplicated parents.
- COVID-19 had a significant impact on the work of the Coordinators as all in-person activity ceased.

Objective 3: Through June 30, 2020 to provide at least 30 groups in parent education/support, annually, to at least 35 unduplicated parents.

2019/20

Georgia Brown:

32 parent education groups held – 107% of objective
212 families participated – 610% of objective

Oceano

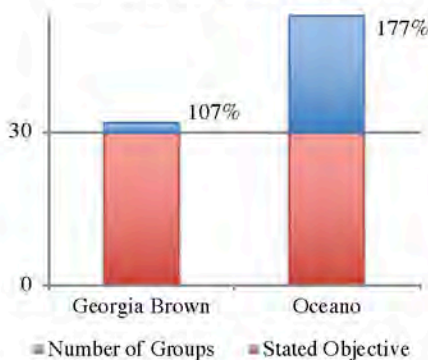
53 parent education groups held – 177% of objective*
39 families participated – 111% of objective*

The Last Four Years

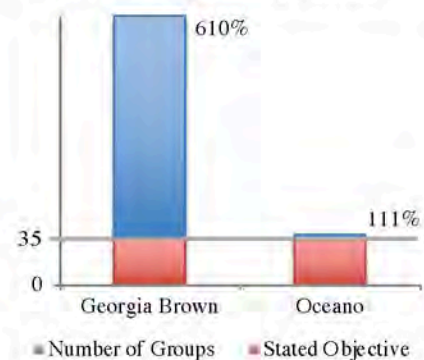
The mean number of parent education groups in Georgia Brown the past four years was 32. The number ranged from 30 to 36. The groups were attended by a mean of 93 parents.

The mean number of groups in Oceano was 29. The mean number of participating families was 41.

Number of Groups, Actual & Objective, 2019/20



Number of Families, Served & Objective, 2019/20



* The Oceano SR Coordinator only submitted data for the first two quarters. The number is extrapolated for three quarters, and the percentage is calculated for four.

School Readiness Site Coordinators

Annual Funding \$104,381 (GB) - \$97,585 (Oc)

Kindergarten Transition

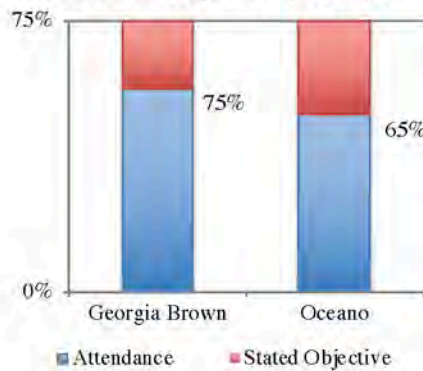
What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- Georgia Brown held 4 classes at their Summer Pre-K Camps for 89 of their incoming students (56%), with 112 parents.
 - Data from parent surveys were available from Georgia Brown. They indicated that almost all children benefited from camp (e.g., felt more comfortable in the classroom (100%), met more children (97%), enjoyed it (95%), and learned about the school (92%). Parents reported feeling ready with their child to start school (98%), feeling more comfortable with the school (94%), meeting other parents (90%), meeting school personnel (90%), and learning how to volunteer at the school (88%).
 - Oceano held 2 classes for 28 of their incoming students (49%), with 28 parents.
 - COVID-19 had no impact on the camps held in the summer of 2019.
- **Objective 4:** Through June 30, 2020 to provide annual Summer Pre-K Camps for at least 75% of incoming kindergarten students.

2019/20
Georgia Brown:
 56% of incoming students at camp – 75% of objective
Oceano
 49% of incoming students at camp – 65% of objective

Percent of Incoming Students at Summer Pre-K Camp, Served & Objective, 2019/20



The Last Four Years

The Kindergarten Transition Camps at Georgia Brown averaged a mean of 58% of their incoming K and TK students.

The camps at Oceano had a mean attendance of 42% of their incoming K classes. Their camp was inactive in 2017/18 due to campus construction.

Family Strengthening Priority Area

First 5 SLO County funded six programs/activities under this Priority Area in 2019/20.

- **Early Childhood Family Advocacy Services:** the Center for Family Strengthening provides Family Advocates (FAs) in three different communities in SLO County: Atascadero/Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, and Nipomo. Their primary activity is to provide case management services for families of children, 0-5. They also provide brief contacts to assist families who do not require intensive support.
- **Family Advocates (School Readiness Neighborhoods):** the SR FAs perform a number of tasks. Case management is the primary activity, but they also support the work of the Site Coordinators.
- **Family Support Counseling:** a part-time provider offers therapeutic interventions to families in need in the two SR school-communities. Families are referred through the Family Advocates. Providing individual and family counseling to parents, young children, and older siblings the counselors intervene in and help the family resolve crises that threaten their wellbeing. The counselor returned to this program in May 2019.
- **Parent Education/Support Pilot Projects:** 1) the Parent Café pilot project uses peer facilitators to lead parents in discussions that promote the building of the five Strengthening Families Protective Factors; and 2) the Born Learning pilot project fuses the United Way's six-session curriculum with six general support groups to help Spanish-speaking parents to engage in their children's education and learn effective parenting skills – the groups were never implemented.
- **Parents Helping Parents:** operates three Family Resource Centers (FRC), in San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, and Grover Beach. The FRCs include libraries that are stocked with resources to help parents learn about their child's needs and how to address them. Trainings are offered to parents in autism, Down Syndrome, and other special needs. And, parents are connected with each other to promote peer support.

The family is one of nature's masterpieces.

George Santayana

Why Is This Important?

Children don't grow up in isolation. They grow up in families. Even children living away from their parents grow up in a group of some kind.

Early social interaction is key to early development - not only brain development, but person development. Involved, loving, and supportive parents or caregivers are crucial to full human development. Families instill values, promote social and emotional development, and foster responsibility and resilience.

Families are where children learn to give and take, to communicate effectively, to resolve conflicts, and to solve problems. Strong family relationships teach children to develop, recognize, and appreciate strong relationships outside of the family.

Research has identified five Protective Factors that contribute to family strength:

- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Knowledge of parent and child development
- Concrete support in times of need
- Social and emotional competence of children

Early Childhood Family Advocacy Services

Annual Funding \$88,000

What Did We Accomplish?

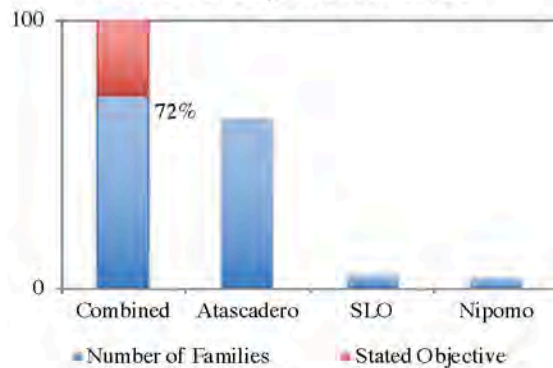
DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Family Advocates provided case management to the following numbers of families: 63 at the LINK in Atascadero; 5 at the Child Development Resource Center in SLO; and 4 in Nipomo.
- The FAs also made brief contacts with: 61 families at the LINK in Atascadero; 7 families at the Child Development Resource Center in SLO; and 3 families in Nipomo.
- COVID-19 had a significant impact on the activities of the Early Childhood Family Advocates. All types of contacts were down 64% compared to the mean of the prior three quarters. Office visits were down 81%.

Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to provide family advocacy/case management for at least 100 unduplicated parents and primary caregivers of children, 0-5, as well as pregnant women and their partners at three locations, annually.

2019/20
72 families case managed – 72% of objective

Number of Families Receiving Case Management Served & Objective, 2019/20



The Last Four Years

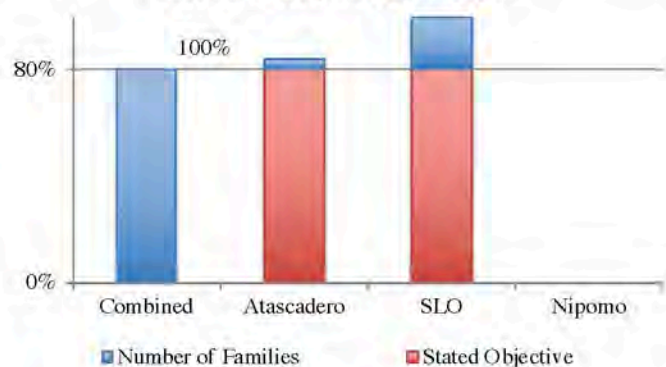
The program has operated for three of the past four years. The number of families in case management has averaged 78 in that time, which is 78% of the stated objective.

The number of families seen outside of the North County Region was considerably fewer than in the past.

Objective 2: By June 30, 2019 & 2020 for at least 80% of families with at least 3 contacts to demonstrate improvement in at least one area of the Apricot Client Assessment.

2019/20
85% of families showed improvement
106% of objective

Number of Families Receiving Case Management Served & Objective, 2019/20



Family Advocates (School Readiness Neighborhoods)

What Did We Accomplish?

Annual Funding \$44,000 (GB) - \$44,000 (Oc)

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

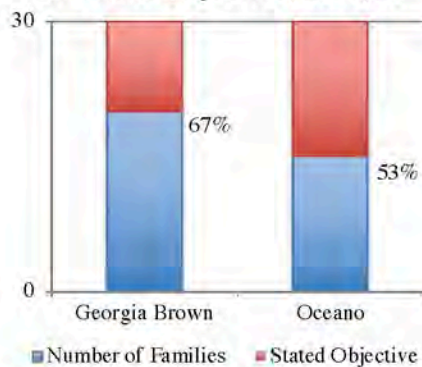
- The Georgia Brown Family Advocate provided case management to 20 families in 2019/20, and the Oceano FA case managed 13 families.
- The Georgia Brown Family Advocate acted as a single-point-of-contact for 271 families in 2019/20, and the Oceano FA was a single-point-of-contact for 125 families.
- COVID-19 had a significant impact on the activities of the Family Advocates as all in-person activities ceased.

Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to provide family advocacy/case management for at least 30 unduplicated families with children, 0-5, annually, in the Georgia Brown and Oceano school-communities.

2019/20
Georgia Brown:
 20 families case managed – 67% of objective

Oceano
 15 families case managed – 53% of objective

Number of Families Receiving Case Management Served & Objective, 2019/20



The Last Four Years

The Family Advocate in Georgia Brown averaged 24 case managed families during the last four years along with 190 families as single-point-of-contact. She also held a mean of 24 parent groups for an average of 42 families.

The Family Advocate in Oceano averaged 15 case managed families during the last four years along with 112 families as single-point-of-contact.

Objective 2: Through June 30, 2020 to serve as a single-point-of-contact for at least 50 unduplicated families with children, 0-5, annually, in the Georgia Brown and Oceano school-communities.

2019/20
Georgia Brown:
 200 families served – 400% of objective

Oceano
 55 families served – 110% of objective

Objective 3: Through June 30, 2020 to provide at least 30 groups in parent education/support, annually, to at least 25 unduplicated parents of children, 0-5, in the Georgia Brown school-community.

2019/20
 19 groups – 63% of objective*
 47 families – 188% of objective

Family Support Counselor (School Readiness Neighborhoods)

What Did We Accomplish?

Annual Funding \$10,000

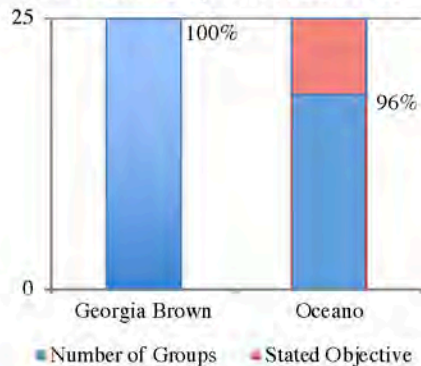
DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Family Support Counselor saw 24 families in counseling at Georgia Brown during 2019/20.
- At Oceano the Family Support Counselor saw 18 families in counseling during 2019/20.
- COVID-19 had a significant impact on the activities of the Family Advocates as all in-person activities ceased.

Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to provide Family Support Counseling services for at least 25 families, annually, while maintaining an on-going caseload of 8 families in each of the Georgia Brown and Oceano school-communities.

2019/20
Georgia Brown:
 25 families counseled – 100% of objective*
Oceano
 18 families counseled – 96% of objective

Number of Families Receiving Counseling Served & Objective, 2019/20



The Last Four Years

The Family Support Counselor saw a mean of 24 families each year during the past four years at Georgia Brown.

She saw a mean of 13 families at Oceano.

Parent Café Parent Group Pilot Project

Annual Funding \$15,568

What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2 successful Parent Café series were offered in 2019/20; 1 full six-session series in Nipomo; 1 full six-session series in Cambria. A third group was started, but failed when only 1 parent attended.
- Attendance has fluctuated. Cambria began with 15 parents from 14 families, and averaged 12 parents from 11 families. Nipomo began with 10 parents from 10 families, and averaged 8 parents from 8 families.
- COVID-19 significantly impacted Parent Cafés as all in-person activities ceased. Efforts to hold groups online were not successful.

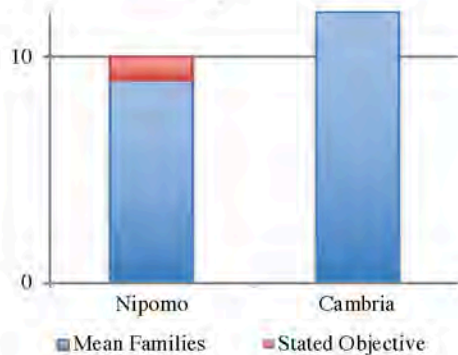
Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to provide six series of parent groups (bilingual as needed) for at least 60 families (estimated up to 2 parents per family) of children, 0-3, as measured by documentation of program activities.

2019/20

2 series of parent groups offered – 33% of objective

10 families served on average – 42% of objective

Mean Number of Families Attending Groups Served & Objective, 2019/20



The Last Two Years

Parent Cafés began operation in the last half of 2018/19. There were 3 groups during that first six-month period with a mean attendance of 7 families.

The first group in the fall of 2019/20 did not succeed, as only one parent showed up. The second and third groups were successfully held with a mean attendance of 11 families and 8 families.

Parents Helping Parents

Annual Funding \$41,566

What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- Parents Helping Parents provided services to 467 unduplicated families in 2019/20.
- These families were served through the following duplicate contacts: phone support (1,216); visits to the three FRCs (126); and attendance at one of the 36 support activities (85).
- COVID-19 had a significant impact on PHP as in-person activities ceased. Staff reached out to parents by phone and email. Support activities were conducted online with some success.

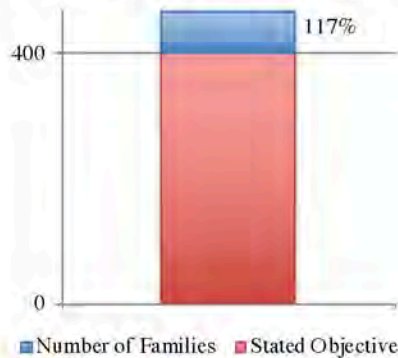
Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to provide access to various PHP resources and services to at least 400 families, annually, who include children, 0-5, with special needs or who are at risk for delays.

The Last Four Years

The mean number of families served by PHP over the past four years was 487, while the mean number of contacts with these families was 1,646.

The pandemic had an impact on the number of contacts, which was down 17% in 2019/20 compared to the mean of the prior three years.

2019/20
467 families served – 117% of objective
Number of Families Receiving Resources & Services Served & Objective, 2019/20



IMPACT SLO

IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs so that All Children Thrive) is a five-year statewide project of First 5 CA. Its overarching purpose is to support quality in early learning settings and practices through a network of partners in each county.

In partnership with the California Department of Education, First 5 has adopted QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) as the general structure for IMPACT, QRIS is a systematic approach that utilizes three categories of activities: 1) Assessment of identified elements of quality through an array of rating tools; 2) Enhancement of quality through specific pathways that address the elements used in the ratings; and 3) Communication to the broader community to promote an understanding of the importance of quality ECE.

IMPACT programs work on select elements of the core areas of quality that are of interest to them (Steps 1 and 2), or they can work on all of the elements of QRIS (Step 3). Whereas QRIS is focused on ECE sites (e.g., Center-based Preschools and Family Childcare Centers, or FCCs), IMPACT includes Alternative Sites, which are child-serving entities that are not necessarily focused on education. Thus, a family resource center or library, or home-visitation program might work to incorporate quality early-learning activities into their work.

IMPACT SLO calls its QRIS work *Quality Counts*. It expands on QRIS by adding four Supplemental Activities to the list of quality-improvement tools: • Raising a Reader; • Eclectic Professional Development; • Social/Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (SEFEL); and • Parenting Support/Education.

IMPACT SLO: QRIS

Quality Counts

Annual Funding \$16,500 (First 5 CA Grant)

Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to coordinate the SLO County *Quality Counts* Consortium.

- The SLO County Child Care Planning Council has incorporated *Quality Counts*, and, therefore, IMPACT SLO into the ongoing business of the Council itself. While brief reports on *Quality Counts* are made at each meeting, *Quality Counts* was a significant agenda item at 6 of the 10 (60%) Council meetings in 2019/20.

A child educated only in school is an uneducated child.

George Santayana

Why Is This Important?

In the U.S. 70% of women with children under 18 participate in the labor force. So, many of our young children spend a significant amount of time in non-parental care arrangements.

Many children, especially low-income and other high-need children, face an achievement gap as they start school. Some never make up the deficit. Quality early childhood education (ECE) programs can improve health, social-emotional development, and school readiness, especially for high-need children. This can help children bridge the achievement gap, thereby avoiding a lifetime of consequences for a slow start in school.

Researchers have been studying ECE providers to identify the characteristics that make up high-quality programming. Three factors make IMPACT unique in efforts to support ECE quality: 1) it allows for maximum flexibility in a provider's approach to quality; 2) it recognizes that almost any youth-serving organization can contribute to ECE; and 3) it recognizes that parent engagement is crucial to successful ECE.

IMPACT SLO: QRIS

Annual Funding \$184,875 (First 5 CA Grant)

Center-based Sites

What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- 30 center-based sites participated at Step 3 in IMPACT SLO during 2019/20, down from 34 in the prior year. 0 centers were new in 2019/20, 2 were moved from QRIS into IMPACT, and 5 sites were moved out of IMPACT, but remained in QRIS.
- Of the 30 centers 24 were publicly funded, and 6 were private.
- COVID-19 had a significant impact on IMPACT SLO as all in-person activities ceased both for the program itself and for the childcare centers.

Objective 2A: By June 30 of each year for the following numbers of eligible center-based sites to complete the QRIS baseline rating: 15 in 2016/17, 24 in 2017/18, 8 in 2018/19, & 7 in 2019/20.

2016/17 to 2019/20

27 center-based sites completed provisional rating
50% of objective

Objective 2B: By June 30 of each year for the following numbers of eligible center-based sites to complete the initial Step 3 QRIS assessment process: 15 on 2016/17; 14 in 2017/18; 6 in 2018/19 & 7 in 2019/20.

2016/17 to 2019/20

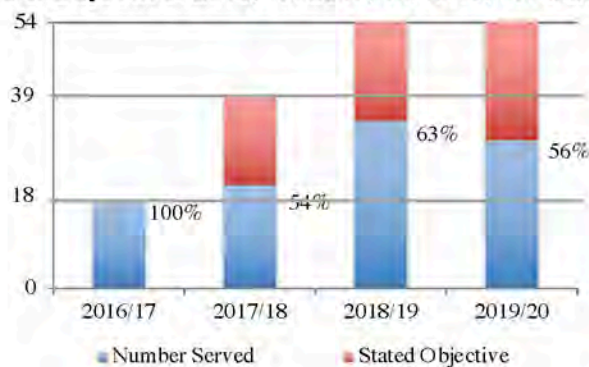
25 center-based sites completed assessment process
46% of objective

Objective 2C: By June 30 of each year for at least 80% of Step 3 center-based sites to remain in the QRIS process.

2019/20

32 of the 35 center-based sites remained in QRIS
114% of objective

Number of Center-based Sites Participating in IMPACT, Served & Objective, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, & 2019/20



The Last Four Years?

Quality Counts involves blended funding, each with its own set of requirements and expectations. SLO County QRIS moves centers in and out of the funding streams depending on the activities provided and other financial factors. This makes tracking sites challenging. When looking at ALL QRIS sites, there were no new Step 3 sites added in 2019/20.

There is 1 Step 2 site (a private business childcare center) and 11 Step 1 centers.

IMPACT SLO: QRIS

Family Childcare Sites

Annual Funding \$101,055 (First 5 CA Grant)

What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- 47 FCCs participated in IMPACT SLO during 2019/20. 9 were new sites, and 3 sites dropped out. 42 sites (89%) were Spanish-speaking providers.
- COVID-19 had a significant impact on the program and its providers. In-person contact between staff and providers ceased. Some providers closed temporarily, and others had families drop out.

Objective 3A: By June 30 of each year for the following numbers of eligible family childcare sites to complete the QRIS provisional rating: 8 in 2016/17, 10 in 2017/18, 3 in 2018/19, & 3 in 2019/20.

2016/17 to 2019/20

47 FCC sites completed provisional rating
196% of objective

Objective 2B: By June 30 of each year for the following numbers of eligible family childcare sites to complete the entire QRIS process (Step 3: provisional rating; development and implementation of a quality improvement plan; and baseline rating): 8 in 2016/17, 10 in 2017/18, 2 in 2018/19, & 4 in 2019/20.

2016/17 to 2019/20

47 FCC sites completed assessment process
196% of objective

Objective 2C: By June 30 of each year for at least 80% of Step 3 FCC sites to remain in the QRIS process.

2017/18 to 2019/20

35 of the FCC sites (85%) remained in QRIS
110% of objective

Number of Family Childcare Sites Participating in IMPACT, Served & Objective, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, & 2019/20



The Last Four Years

The interest on the part of family childcare providers for support in delivering quality care to children was beyond expectations. The total of 55 sites that have participated during the past four years is 190% of the stated objective. 90% of the FCCs have been Spanish-speakers. 6 providers (11%) either dropped out or went out of business.

22 of the providers (40%) took university coursework toward their Associate Teacher Credential. 7 of them (33%, or 13% of all FCCs) gained the credential.

IMPACT SLO: Supplemental Activities

Eclectic Professional Development & SEFEL Training

Annual Funding \$85,045

What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- 10 professional development trainings were attended by 125 (duplicated) ECE professionals from IMPACT SLO sites. The Early Learning Specialist was on maternity leave during the first quarter.
- 2 of the trainings were Pyjama Drama trainings that focused on supporting children in their Social/Emotional growth and development.
- 4 trainings were provided for Alternative Sites with 14 attending.
- COVID-19 had a significant impact on the program and its providers. In-person contact between staff and providers ceased. Some providers closed temporarily, and others had families drop out. Online training was offered, but not all providers were comfortable with the format.

Objective 1: Through June 30, 2020 to provide at least 15 professional development activities, annually, in Early Childhood Education for IMPACT SLO participants.

2019/20

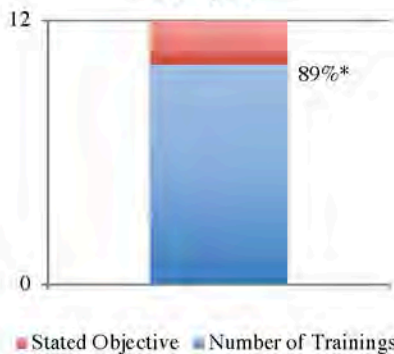
10 professional development trainings

89% of objective*

2 trainings in Social/Emotional Development provided for ECE providers

4 trainings were held for Alternative Sites

Number of Trainings, Actual & Objective, 2019/20



* Prorated for nine months of the year

The Last Four Years

The Early Learning Specialist conducted 57 Eclectic Professional Development trainings in the past four year, for a mean of 14 per year. This is 95% of the stated objective, even though she was out two quarters on maternity leave. 12 of the trainings concerned social/emotional development, and 4 were for Alternative Sites.

IMPACT SLO: Supplemental Activities

Raising a Reader Annual Funding \$47,519

What Did We Accomplish?

DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- Two new reading programs were initiated at laundromats in the South County Region.
- The Oceano Raising a Reader Lending Library, an instance of a center-based preschool serving as an Alternative Site, continued to support RAR at 6 Family Childcare Centers in the neighborhood.
- COVID-19 had a significant impact on the program and its providers. In-person contact between staff and providers ceased. Some providers closed temporarily, and others had families drop out. Several online options were explored and used to keep kids reading.

Objective 1A: Through June 30, 2020 to coordinate literacy efforts for children, 0-5, and their families, and to support the integration of literacy development in the programming of IMPACT SLO participants.

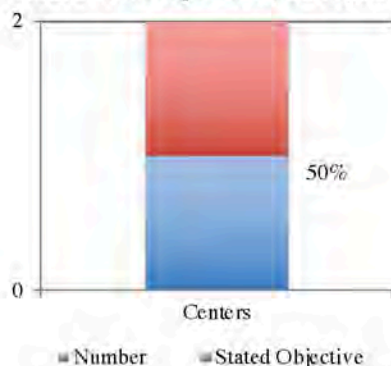
The Literacy Coordinator initiated the two "Libromats," one in Grover Beach and one in Nipomo. Four existing reading programs were enhanced: Woods Humane Society, ECHO Homeless Shelter, YMCA Summer Program, and the SLO Library "Beanstack" online reading program.

Objective 1B: Through June 30, 2020 to establish Raising a Reader (and/ or other analogous early family-literacy) programs in at least 2 center-based ECE sites, 4 family-childcare sites, and 4 Alternative Sites that are participants in IMPACT SLO.

2019/20
1 center-based site began RAR
50% of objective

The Literacy Coordinator began an RAR reading program at the Bear Kitten Preschool at Paso Robles High School.

**Number of Center-based Sites with Raising a Reader Programs
 Actual & Objective, 2019/20**



The Last Four Years

Reading programs for very young children have been begun at the local animal shelter, at "free little libraries," at homeless shelters, at a local hospital, and at laundromats. IMPACT SLO has collaborated with local libraries, preschools, family childcare centers, and the YMCA to name a few.

Raising a Reader programs have been started at 5 center-based ECE programs, 10 family childcare centers, and 9 Alternative Sites.

Kits for New Parents Distribution

What Did We Accomplish?

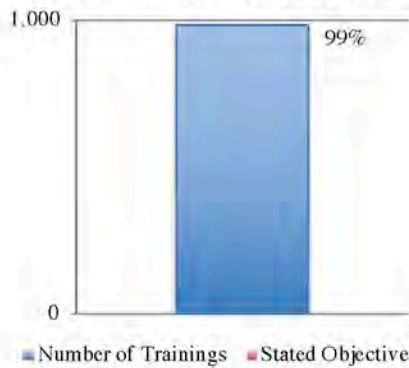
DATA HIGHLIGHTS:

- First 5 SLO County distributed 985 kits to 5 different providers in 2019/20.
- 17% of the kits were in Spanish.
- COVID-19 had a significant impact as in-person contact by programs ceased or was reduced. Only 35 kits were requested after the end of February.

Objective 1: By June 30, 2020 to provide educational and support kits to at least 1,000 parents of children, ages 0-5, annually.

2019/20
985 kits distributed – 99% of objective

Number of Kits for New Parents Distributed Served & Objective, 2019/20



The Last Four Years

First 5 SLO County has distributed 5,458 Kits for New Parents over the last four years. That's a mean of 1,365 kits per year, or 137% of the stated objective.

The percentage of Spanish-language kits has risen in the past two years, going from 9% in 2016/17 and 2017/18 to 15% last year and 17% this year.