



FY '24-'25 FIRST 5 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

First 5 San Luis Obispo County mobilized its 2024-2028 Strategic Plan with new areas of focus that emerged from community conversations centered around local needs during ever-changing times. As a funder, our agency allocated dollars to two programs designed to combat early childhood education workforce-related challenges: 1) “Ticket 2 Teach,” which addresses staffing shortages by recruiting, supporting and training apprentices who are interested in a career in Early Childhood Education (ECE) and 2) “Building Connections,” which aims to improve access to quality, affordable early care for children aged 0-2 by providing training, coaching, and curriculum support to Family Child Care (FCC) providers and Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers. First 5 SLO County funding also helped to give parent-child engagement classes a broader reach across our county, with the launch of “Aprendiendo con Mamá y Papá” (Learning with Mom and Dad), uniquely tailored to Mixteco-speaking families in the region. In that same spirit, First 5 SLO County joined other ally organizations to bolster support for immigrant families facing increasing uncertainty and barriers to health care, basic provisions and other essential resources. Amid dramatic funding and policy shifts at the federal, state and local levels, our agency also amplified its partner-convening role and established a First 5 Early Childhood Stabilization Fund to help safeguard critical services for young children and their families. This year First 5 SLO County mobilized a regional Child Care Coalition focused on child care as an economic mobility strategy, with grant funding from Uplift Central Coast as part of the California Jobs First regional initiative. This collaborative space brings together cross-sector child care champions throughout six Central Coast counties— with goals of shared learning, policy change promotion, and identifying regionally scalable child care models.