



AGENDA ITEM: 26-28

DATE OF MEETING: July 8, 2026

ACTION: ☒

INFORMATION: ☐

CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPT THE FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN REFINEMENT FOR 2027 THROUGH 2030, PURSUANT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 130140 AND RIVERSIDE COUNTY ORDINANCE 784

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Pursuant to the California Children and Families Act of 1998, Health and Safety Code section 130140, and Riverside County Ordinance No. 784, staff recommend that the Commission conduct a public hearing and adopt the First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan Refinement for January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2030.

The proposed Strategic Plan Refinement builds on the Commission's 2023–2026 Strategic Plan, carries forward the Commission's vision, mission, values, and four goal areas, and updates the plan to reflect current county conditions, community and partner input, implementation learning, and emerging system opportunities. The refinement clarifies the Commission's strategic direction for the next plan period, including continued emphasis on prevention, early intervention, family strengthening, early learning, health and development, data-informed decision-making, sustainable funding, and countywide systems integration.

BACKGROUND

Since adoption of the 2023–2026 Strategic Plan, the Commission has conducted required annual reviews and public hearings to receive input, review progress, and guide implementation during the current plan period.

The 2027–2030 Strategic Plan Refinement is intended to continue the Commission's strategic evolution rather than replace the existing framework in full. Through the planning process, the Commission reviewed progress under the current plan, considered Commissioner, community, staff, and partner input, and identified refinements needed to strengthen implementation during the next plan period.

At the Commission's prior Strategic Plan update, Commissioners provided feedback on First 5 Riverside County's partnership role, use of data, Family Resource Centers, prevention goals, parent outreach, closed-loop referral systems, local concrete supports, braided partnerships, and the need for flexibility given changing policy and funding conditions. The proposed Strategic Plan Refinement incorporates this feedback by more clearly defining First 5 Riverside County's role as a prevention and systems-integration partner, strengthening the use of data to identify priority needs and populations, recognizing Family Resource Centers as prevention hubs, and identifying RivCoONE/WPHS and coordinated referral pathways as important countywide infrastructure for connecting families to services.

Key refinements include:

- Continued alignment of the Commission's work around four goal areas: Quality Early Learning, Comprehensive Health and Development, Resilient Families, and Countywide Impact;
- Clearer definition of First 5 Riverside County's role as a prevention, systems-integration, and infrastructure partner across early learning, health, behavioral health, child welfare, public health, social services, and family support systems;
- Stronger emphasis on Family Resource Centers as community-based prevention hubs that meet families where they are, support region-specific needs, embed partner services, and connect families to concrete supports;
- Continued focus on home visiting, HealthySteps, developmental screening, early learning access, parent outreach, and coordinated referral pathways as core prevention and early intervention strategies;
- Recognition of RivCoONE/WPHS and closed-loop referral infrastructure as important countywide tools to improve service coordination, provider participation, family navigation, and connection to available County and community resources;
- Increased emphasis on data, evaluation, dashboards, community and parent feedback, and measurable outcomes to validate problem statements, narrow prevention priorities, identify families and communities with the greatest needs, and support continuous improvement and accountability;
- Stronger focus on partnership roles, braided service delivery, and local concrete supports that respond to family economic stressors, including poverty, cost of living, access to services, and other social drivers of health and well-being;
- Continued focus on sustainable funding, braided resources, public/private partnerships, and alignment with First 5 California, the Southern California Region of First 5s, and related State, County, and regional priorities; and
- Continued flexibility to respond to emerging policy, fiscal, health coverage, Medi-Cal, and federal funding conditions that may affect families, providers, and service delivery during the plan period.

January 21, 2026 (Action Item No. 26-05): Annual Review and Public Hearing of First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan (2023–2026).

Statutory Requirement

The California Children and Families Act, Health and Safety Code Section 130140 (Proposition 10), requires local county commissions to adopt a strategic plan to support and improve early childhood development. The plan must be consistent with, and in furtherance of, the purposes of the Act and any guidelines adopted by the State Commission.

Commissions must annually review their strategic plans and adjust as appropriate based on revised priorities. In addition, the Commission must conduct at least one public hearing each year on its strategic plan and prior to adoption of any changes. All Commission funding allocations, contracts, and program investments must be consistent with the adopted Strategic Plan and will continue to be brought forward through the Commission's regular budget, procurement, and approval processes.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Commission:

1. Conduct a public hearing on the proposed First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan Refinement for January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2030;
2. Review and adopt the First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan Refinement for January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2030; and
3. Following adoption by Commission, direct staff to submit the adopted First 5 Strategic Plan Refinement to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors for review and comment through the County's applicable receive-and-file process, and then to the State Commission, as required by Riverside County Ordinance No. 784 and Health and Safety Code section 130140.

BUDGET IMPACT

No additional fiscal impact. Adoption of the Strategic Plan Refinement does not approve any specific contract, allocation, procurement, or expenditure. Implementation will be supported through Commission-approved budgets, and specific funding actions will be brought forward separately as applicable.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE

- Goal Area 1 - Quality Early Learning (92950)
- Goal Area 2 - Comprehensive Health & Development (92945)
- Goal Area 3 - Resilient Families (92960)
- Goal Area 4 - Countywide Impact (92980)

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None known.

ATTACHMENT

1. Draft 2027–2030 First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission Strategic Plan