

AGENDA

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair: Astrid Heger

Thursday, April 25, 2024
1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Meeting Location:

First 5 LA, 750 N.
Alameda Street, Los
Angeles, CA 90012

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

2. **ACTION**

AB 2449 Request(s) to Participate Remotely Due to Emergency Circumstances and Notice(s) of Remote Participation for Just Cause

3. **INFORMATION**

Review Program and Planning Committee Transcript and Meeting Notes from September 28, 2023 Meeting

4. **INFORMATION**

African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Initiative Update, and Amend Strategic Partnership with the California Community Foundation (CCF) Community Initiatives Fund, Fiscal Sponsor for the Los Angeles Partnership for Early Childhood Investment in the Amount of \$450,000 for a Total of \$1,600,000 through June 30, 2025 to Build Upon Sustainability Strategies for the African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative ("AAIMM") Community Action Teams and Continue Supporting The Village Fund Pooled Fund

Presenters: Tara Ficek, Director, Health Systems; Adjoa Jones, Director, African

COMMISSIONERS

Los Angeles County Supervisor	Judy Abdo	Summer McBride
Holly J. Mitchell	Robert Byrd, Psy.D	Maricela Ramirez
<i>Chair</i>	Astrid Heger, M.D.	Carol Sigala
Brandon Nichols	Yvette Martinez	
<i>Vice Chair</i>		

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D.,
M.P.H., M.Ed.
Jacquelyn McCroskey, DSW
Deanne Tilton

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Karla Pleitez Howell

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

John A. Wagner

A PUBLIC ENTITY

American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Programs, Health Promotion Bureau, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health; and Melissa R. Franklin, Director, Division of Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Promotion Bureau, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

5. Break

6. **INFORMATION**

First 5 LA Programmatic Sustainability Strategies

Presenters: John Wagner, Executive Vice President of Family Systems & Human Resources and Diana Careaga, Director, Family Supports

7. **INFORMATION**

Equity Index

8. **INFORMATION**

2024 Advocacy Priorities

Presenters: Ofelia Medina, Senior Policy Strategist and Jamie Zamora, Senior Government Affairs Strategist

9. Public Comment (for items not on the agenda)

10. Adjournment



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MEETING OF FIRST 5 LOS ANGELES PROGRAM AND PLANNING
Thursday, September 28, 2023
750 North Alameda Street, First Floor
Los Angeles, California 90012

STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY:
HEATHERLYNN GONZALEZ
CSR #13646

1 Thursday, September 28, 2023; Los Angeles, California

2 1:32 p.m.

3 -oOo-

4 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Good afternoon everyone. I
5 think if I turn this on you can hear me better. I hope
6 everybody has had a fabulous couple of weeks over
7 whatever. And we're all here together; so we're going to
8 start and I'm going to ask to have a roll call and see if
9 we can.

10 MS. VO: Robert Byrd?

11 COMMISSIONER BYRD: Here.

12 MS. VO: Astrid Heger?

13 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Here.

14 MS. VO: Yvette Martinez?

15 COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ: Here.

16 MS. VO: Summer McBride?

17 Frank Ramos?

18 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Here.

19 MS. VO: Maricela Ramirez?

20 COMMISSIONER RAMIREZ: Here.

21 MS. VO: Carol Sigala

22 Julie Taren?

23 COMMISSIONER TAREN: Here.

24 MS. VO: Deborah Allen?

25 Deanne Tilton Durfee?

1 COMMISSIONER TILTON DURFEE: Here.

2 MS. VO: Jacquelyn McCroskey?

3 And Alejandra Albarran Moses?

4 COMMISSIONER ALBARRAN MOSES: Here.

5 MS. VO: Quorum is present.

6 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Thank you very much for
7 that.

8 For this meeting we received a request from
9 Commissioner Martinez to teleconference pursuant to AB
10 2449, just cause for caregiving of a child.

11 Commissioner Martinez, hello, how are you?

12 COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ: I'm good. Thank you.
13 Thanks for accommodating.

14 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Will you confirm that you
15 are appearing remotely pursuant to AB 2449 due to
16 caregiving need of a child?

17 COMMISSIONER MARTINEZ: Yes. I'm -- yes.

18 COMMISSIONER HEGER: That's good. I'm actually
19 into caregiving of children who are in need, and it's my
20 job and my passion. So thank you for that. And before we
21 get into the rest of the agenda, I would like to take a
22 brief moment to introduce two new board members who are
23 very recently appointed. Alejandra --

24 COMMISSIONER MOSES: Albarra Moses.

25 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Thank you. From the policy

1 roundtable for childcare and development. And Julie
2 Taren.

3 COMMISSIONER TAREN: Uh-huh.

4 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Who's the new alternate for
5 Supervisor Horvath's district.

6 We're excited to have you both here. And join in
7 whenever you can and bring us your thoughts to be amazing.
8 Thank you for that.

9 I think we can move on to Item Number 3, unless
10 there's public comment. I'm only testing. Program and
11 Planning Committee transcript from June 29th, 2023. I
12 have a hard time calling on anybody who's read all of
13 those minutes, but I'm assuming that we can move on from
14 there.

15 MS. VO: If there are no additions or deletions
16 or changes to the transcript, then we can receive and file
17 the transcript. And confirming there are no public
18 comments on this item before we move on to Item 4.

19 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Thank you very much for
20 that. Appreciate that. The next two items will be led by
21 our Executive Committee Vice Chair Frank Ramos since these
22 two items fall under this committee's purview.

23 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Thank you, Commissioner
24 Heger. And welcome to the latest and greatest
25 Commissioners. I love to have you here.

1 Item 4 is our annual audit which falls under the
2 purview of Executive and Budget Finance Committees. And
3 with that, I'm going to hand this over to Raoul Ortega to
4 present.

5 MR. ORTEGA: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Good
6 afternoon, Commissioners, members of the public, and staff
7 and our friends on the web out there. Welcome.

8 My presentation today represents the year end
9 annual comprehensive financial report for fiscal year
10 '22-'23. In today's presentation, I will include a brief
11 summary of several items for you today. Those items
12 represent a GFOA award, the overview of the annual
13 comprehensive financial report process, and the outcome of
14 the independent auditors report. I will also be taking a
15 few minutes to highlight some of the budgeting and
16 accounting activities that have transpired through the
17 past fiscal year as well as provide a trajectory of the
18 organization's fiscal reality by showing you three-year
19 comparison of -- three-year comparison of our revenues,
20 our expenditures, and different trends that we have been
21 observing.

22 And then at the end of my presentation, I will
23 invite Kinnaly Soukhaseum from our CPA firm partner to say
24 a few words about our audit, and then I will open it up
25 for some questions and for some comments. Thank you.

1 First, I'd like to start with the GFOA award.
2 The Government Finance Officers Association, also known as
3 GFOA, has awarded the First 5 LA the Certificate of
4 Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its
5 annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year
6 ending June 30th, 2022. Even though we are addressing
7 fiscal year '22/'23, the report and certificate does come
8 out during the summer; so it's our opportunity to shine
9 the light on work we have done in the past.

10 This work -- this report has been judged by an
11 impartial panel and represents the highest form of
12 recognition in government accounting. And it's attainment
13 reflects a significant accomplishment by the organization
14 and its management.

15 The fiscal year '21/'22 certificate does
16 represent the 15th consecutive year that First 5 LA's
17 financial report has received this award. So compliment
18 and congratulations to the entire organization and the
19 team that supports the annual audit process.

20 So moving on to the actual financial report,
21 there are some requirements as part of the California
22 Health and Safety Code that established First 5 California
23 and County Commissions. County commissions are required
24 to prepare audited financial reports and statements in
25 accordance to generally accepted accounting principles.

1 This consists of basic financial and supplementary
2 statements at the fund level.

3 With First 5 LA, we do step it up a notch. Our
4 report is above the normal reporting requirements set by
5 the Health and Safety Code and the First 5 California
6 Management Guide, the financial report goes beyond the
7 scope of basic financial statements and State compliance
8 as well as it reflects a detailed view of the commission's
9 financial position at a nominal time, which for today will
10 be as of June 30th, 2023. Hence, our ability to qualify
11 for the GFOA award.

12 As part of the audit planning and process, it
13 does take several months to complete. There are three
14 phases starting with the interim bill board that begins in
15 May and fieldwork that continues for the month of August.
16 And in September we do finalize the report and process in
17 partnership with our auditors in September.

18 The process is an organization-wide effort which
19 includes interviews with directors and staff, confirmation
20 of pending litigations from our legal counsel, as well as
21 a thorough review of our accounts payable files to assure
22 the appropriate internal controls are in place. And as
23 steward of public funds, commissioners have oversight and
24 must approve this report to be submitted to the State
25 Controller's Office and First 5 California by November

1 1st. Which action to approve is scheduled for the October
2 12th, commission meeting.

3 Now we move on to the actual report. I'm happy
4 to report that the result of the fiscal year '22-'23 from
5 our auditors Eide Bailly, LLP, noted that the financial
6 statements are presented fairly in accordance to generally
7 accepted accounting principles. This is an unmodified
8 opinion, which in plain English relates to -- or equates
9 to a clean audit.

10 During Eide Bailly's normal course of performing
11 their assigned function of the audit, no material
12 deficiencies in internal controls were identified. And
13 though no material deficiencies were identified,
14 opportunities to tie in some of our controls were brought
15 to management's attention. One such example of that was
16 identified and addressed through the normal course of the
17 engagement was how we looked at our investment true value
18 adjustment.

19 We share -- we share you this information in full
20 transparency. Even though the management letter is not a
21 required document to share with the board members, we as
22 an organization have always looked to transparency and
23 feel like it is appropriate for us to be sharing this to
24 our committee members. Specifically, the Executive
25 Committee members and the Budget and Finance Committees.

1 So moving on from a clean audit, I want to spend
2 some time to just reflect and highlight some of the
3 activities that occur during fiscal year '22/'23.

4 We began the year July 1 of 2022, starting with
5 the approved budget. This budget was approved by the
6 board in June 2022 for a total of \$106 million. And
7 through our regular budgeting process in 2023 the board
8 approved a revised budget of 104.9. This is an overall
9 decrease of approximately 1.1 million, which was related
10 to several programs that the budgets were adjusted
11 downwards and upwards and netted to a \$1.1 million
12 adjustment overall.

13 Moving from our budget, now focusing on our
14 overall revenue. The total revenue for fiscal year
15 '22/'23, we received roughly \$83.5 million in total
16 revenues, which 47.3 million came from our tobacco tax
17 revenue. First 5 LA also received an additional \$1.2
18 million from Proposition 56, which represents the '21/'22
19 fiscal years backfill which is consistent with prior years
20 when we received the fund one year in arrears.

21 What's new for fiscal year '22/'23? In
22 California (unintelligible) tax which revoked
23 \$1.1 million. That \$1.1 million is expected to go up,
24 even though we don't have significant data to report the
25 rate that \$1.1 million may go up.

1 As for other revenues, we received \$15.3 million.
2 That \$15.3 million fully reflects the hard work on how we
3 go about sustainability or looking at opportunities to
4 offset our cost. The total revenue is also -- the total
5 revenue also includes an accounting entry which is an
6 adjustment to the fair market value of our County
7 co-investment of total of \$1.36 million.

8 On the expenditure side we saw a total of 91.1 --
9 sorry. \$91.9 million for this fiscal year, with \$73
10 million related to our program expenditures, which will be
11 highlighted in the report following my item, First 5
12 California's report. \$6.6 million was related to our
13 program operating expenditures, and the remaining \$12.3
14 million is attributed to our administrative expenditures.

15 All right. Now to the portion that everyone
16 would like to know, and that is how much money do we have
17 left? What is our fund balance?

18 For fiscal year '22/'23 as of June 30th was
19 roughly \$275.7 million. The overall fund balance is
20 distributed by certain degrees of constraints aligned with
21 accounting principles and our current fund balance policy.

22 Although I will not be going over these
23 definitions, this slide is to provide context to the
24 degree of the different constraints from highest to lowest
25 and to remind our commissioners that the distribution is

1 ultimately determined by action that the board has taken.
2 Such as budget process and other actions that the board
3 has taken throughout the fiscal year.

4 I use this slide in order to really reflect a
5 simpler visual, to illustrate and to focus the
6 distribution of the fund balance by the history. We start
7 with nonspendable, that came in at roughly \$485,000. 80.7
8 million is in under the committed constraint. The
9 assigned is at 124.1. And the unassigned at \$70.3
10 million. It's important to note that as part of this
11 \$70.3 million, the overall organization's 50 percent
12 reserve for the operating budget is reflected in that
13 bucket.

14 Now to move on to some trends. On the next three
15 slides, I will talk about trends and activities that we're
16 currently observing for the last three fiscal years. This
17 graph reflects our declining fund balance as we
18 continuously rely on it to offset our revenue over our
19 expenditures. As presented in the prior pie chart, the
20 fund balance as of June 30th, 2023, is \$257.7 million,
21 which decreased by \$12.2 million from the prior year
22 balance of \$287.9 million.

23 On this slide, we reflect the three-year
24 comparison of our revenue and expenditures. The table
25 continues to reflect First 5 LA's planned pattern of

1 spending more than what we are bringing in, reducing our
2 fund balance on an annual basis. This slide also reflects
3 the organization's effort to reduce our expenditures and
4 align our cost to our fiscal reality of declining revenue.

5 And for the last comparison, I'd like to show our
6 program versus our administrative expenditures. Looking
7 at the right-hand side of the graph for fiscal year
8 '22/'23, the administrative cost of \$12.3 million of the
9 total is below the spending cap of 14.3 million approved
10 by the board midyear revision. The total program
11 expenditure of 79.6 million in fiscal year '22/'23
12 provides provider grants and allocations as well as
13 operation expenditures in direct support of program
14 efforts.

15 This ends my presentation. And at this time, I
16 will like to invite Kinnaly Soukhaseum who's our CPA's
17 firm Eide Bailly's partner to say a few words about this
18 year's audit engagement.

19 MS. SOUKHASEUM: All right. Thank you, Raoul.
20 And thank you for having me participate in this meeting.
21 My name is Kinnaly Soukhaseum, and I am the partner with
22 Eide Bailly.

23 So we've completed our audit for the fiscal year
24 ending June 30th, 2023. And I just wanted to take some
25 time to discuss what our responsibility under generally

1 accepted auditing standards is, and also to discuss the
2 results of our audit.

3 So our scope of work was to provide an opinion on
4 the commission's annual comprehensive financial report for
5 the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2023, and also to test
6 for compliance with the standards and procedures for
7 audits of local entities, administering the California
8 Children and Family's Act, issued by the California State
9 Controller's Office.

10 We plan to issue an unmodified opinion or clean
11 opinion, which on the commission's financial statement,
12 which is the highest level of assurance over the financial
13 statements. As part of our financial statement audit, we
14 also considered the commission's internal controls and
15 designed our procedures to gain reasonable but not
16 absolute assurance. We also perform test compliance with
17 laws, regulations, and contracts, those which could have a
18 direct and material effect on the determination of the
19 financial statement amounts. In addition, we also
20 reviewed the required supplementary information to ensure
21 that the amounts contained in those sections were
22 consistent with the information that were presented in the
23 basic financial statements.

24 These significant accounting policies used by the
25 commission are described in note one to the financial

1 statements. There were no significant changes in
2 accounting policies used. There were four accounting
3 pronouncements that were effective this fiscal year.
4 However, through the evaluation with First 5 management,
5 we determined that these statements did not have a
6 material impact on the commission's financial statements.
7 There were no uncorrected misstatements identified during
8 the course of our audit. And as Raoul noted, we did note
9 four areas of improvement which is identified in the
10 management letter. Management is implementing changes to
11 address these comments.

12 Lastly, I'm happy to report that there were no
13 difficulties with management or staff during the course of
14 the audit. We certainly appreciate serving as the
15 commission's auditors and would like to thank commission
16 and staff for their -- for the collaborative effort as
17 part of the audit process.

18 And with that, that ends my presentation. We'll
19 be happy to take any questions that anyone may have.

20 MR. ORTEGA: Great. Thank you so much. Are there
21 any comments or questions for the finance team?

22 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Commissioner Byrd?

23 COMMISSIONER BYRD: So I wanted to start by
24 taking pause to recognize the award that First 5 got for
25 the previous fiscal year's audit. I think as a

1 commissioner who has some fiscal responsibility, I believe
2 the commitment of First 5 to go above and beyond, and this
3 whole transparency means a lot. And I do really
4 appreciate the work of your leadership and your consistent
5 attention to detail in helping to achieve that award.

6 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Thank you, Commissioner
7 Byrd. I wrote that down and underlined it. That's so
8 impressive, 15 consecutive years. So First 5 is doing a
9 great job of being good fiscal stewards. Thank you for
10 that.

11 Any other commissioners with comments or
12 questions?

13 COMMISSIONER TILTON DURFEE: Second the comment.

14 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Ms. Vo?

15 MR. ORTEGA: Before we move on, let me just cover
16 some next steps, and I also want to also compliment our
17 partnership with Eide Bailly. You know, Eide Bailly was
18 independently selected to -- to be our auditors; so not
19 only are they our auditors and provide a significant
20 partnership, but they also provide partnership across the
21 association and First 5 network.

22 A perfect example of this is some work that I led
23 with the association and invited Eide Bailly to present a
24 thorough understanding of GASB 96. So it's just a perfect
25 example a great partnership between First 5 as an

1 organization, independent auditing organization such as
2 Eide Bailly, across the whole system that we call First 5
3 as a network.

4 So just wanted to acknowledge and appreciate
5 Kinnaly for that support and just acknowledge the work
6 that we're doing across not only as an individual
7 organization for LA, but for the actual First 5 system as
8 a whole. And I just think it's important for us to
9 highlight that.

10 And then as for next steps. This report is due
11 on November 1st to the State Controller's Office and to
12 the Los Angeles County Controller's Office. We are a
13 important unit of the County; so our audit does roll up to
14 theirs. We will be asking for the board to approve the
15 audit on -- on the 12th, and then we would submit the
16 report to both the First 5 California and then use this
17 information to update our long-term financial plan. And
18 then, as for me as Director of Finance, for the ask for
19 both the Executive Committee members chair and Financial
20 chair Financial Committee chair, we don't ask for action
21 but we do ask for endorsement so that we can bring it to
22 the board on October 12th for approval.

23 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Commissioner Byrd.

24 COMMISSIONER BYRD: So there's two other comments
25 I wanted to raise real quickly. One is the administrative

1 cost reflected on slide 14. I think we've had prior
2 conversations about revisiting the administrative costs
3 that are captured there and what might be better aligned
4 with program expenditures. So I -- I want to keep that on
5 our radar, because I do think it could give us a little
6 bit more cushion for other administrative costs that start
7 to expand if we can better align some of those costs with
8 programming expenditures where they might better fit. So
9 that's one.

10 And then I wanted to touch base real quickly
11 around the reserves. From a departmental perspective, 50
12 percent reserves seems a little bit high for an
13 organization that's this stable. And I was wondering
14 whether we might want to consider reducing the reserves to
15 30 or 35 percent, which would then free up 15 to 20
16 percent of those dollars to reinvest in something that
17 purchases a higher yield for the organization.

18 MR. ORTEGA: So you are just music to my ears.
19 Yes. We are -- as part of the strategic plan, we did say
20 that we would be looking at some of our operational
21 policies and procedures and our approach. Both of the
22 ones that you have touched are administrative overhead
23 cost or how we define our admin costs. That's an area
24 that we have been highlighting that we definitely want to
25 revisit.

1 We do have a very -- I don't know if it's
2 conservative or liberal, but the way we define our
3 administrative cost, we count a hundred percent of Karla's
4 time, a hundred percent of our honorable John Wagner's
5 time as admin cost. And they are leading significant
6 program work, especially in systems change and the
7 partnership that John's created between us and the County.
8 Those are all program-related costs. A hundred percent of
9 his time is not admin. So we definitely have that on our
10 radar to revisit in the calendar year of 2024.

11 As for the reserve policy, definitely music to my
12 ears. Like I said, we do have a significant reserve of 50
13 percent. I think we definitely do need to revisit what
14 that percentage looks like. When we initially did our
15 assessment back in 2015 and we adopted the 2015-2020
16 strategic plan, we did look at our reserve and we did take
17 a conservative approach in that we wanted to make sure we
18 had six months of resources available to function if the
19 worst case scenario did happen.

20 But with the current market and the rate of
21 return that we could possibly make, any resources that we
22 could make available to us to lock up and make a better
23 return on investment goes back to the presentation that we
24 did to the commission this month about how we maximize our
25 assets. And that's an area that we definitely want to

1 really focus on and see where we can maximize our assets
2 such as our significant fund balance.

3 So thank you for those questions,

4 COMMISSIONER TILTON DURFEE: Simple question.

5 What is our rate of income on the reserve account -- the
6 interest?

7 MR. ORTEGA: So we have a significant amount of
8 roughly \$134 million that's locked into a rate that's
9 right south of 4 percent and we locked that in when the
10 rate at the County was below -- or right above 1 percent;
11 so we almost doubled our rate. But now with the market,
12 there's opportunities that we'll get a better rate of
13 return whatever cash we can make available. So yeah.
14 Yeah. Great opportunities.

15 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Any other questions or
16 comments from the commissioners?

17 Great questions and great job.

18 Ms. Vo, any public comments?

19 MS. VO: Confirming there are no public comments.
20 And before we move on to the next item, just a reminder to
21 commissioners and presenters to speak clearly into the
22 mike so that all of our remote attendees can hear clearly.
23 As my mike was going out.

24 COMMISSIONER BYRD: So I know you asked for an
25 endorsement. Do you need a vocal endorsement? Because I

1 would provide that endorsement to move.

2 MR. ORTEGA: Yeah. That would be nice.

3 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: All right. Thank you,
4 commissioners.

5 Our next item on the agenda is First 5 LA's
6 annual report to First 5 California that will be presented by
7 HaRi.

8 MS. KIM HAN: Hello. Good afternoon, everyone.
9 Good afternoon, Commissioners. My name is HaRi Kim Han
10 from the office of the Data for Action.

11 I'm not feeling a hundred percent or too well
12 today; so I'm joining virtually and will be presenting on
13 the second of the three annual proceedings today.
14 Specifically, on First 5 LA's annual report to the State.

15 So in adherence to Prop 10 funding requirements,
16 First 5 LA submits a report to First 5 California on an
17 annual basis. Today I'll be summarizing the fiscal year
18 '22/'23 preliminary annual report findings in preparation
19 for delivering the full annual report at the October 12
20 Board of Commissioners meeting.

21 Also supporting our State annual reporting work
22 is Laura Zimsken (phonetic) from Daly Partners who's not
23 here, and it's just me presenting today.

24 In terms of agenda, I'll begin by providing a
25 background of the State annual report then transition to

1 reviewing the preliminary results for First 5 LA's annual
2 report, and on populations reached through our
3 investments.

4 I'll then provide a summary of the key take-aways
5 and conclude with overview of next steps. So let's begin
6 with some background information on this State annual
7 report.

8 As you know, First 5 LA is funded through Prop 10
9 and one of the funding requirements of this legislation is
10 the State annual report. In order to generate this
11 report, First 5 California collects data from each First 5
12 County Commission. And there are three sections that each
13 County needs to report on.

14 One is a summary of revenue expenditures. Second
15 is a demographic worksheet which includes data on
16 populations reached and their demographics. And finally a
17 summary of evaluations conducted and key County highlights
18 and accomplishments.

19 Once the data from all 58 Counties is received,
20 First 5 California synthesizes this information in a
21 single report. You may remember back in June
22 commissioners approved a receipt of filing of First 5
23 California fiscal year 2021/2022 annual report, which is
24 available through First 5 California's website.

25 So you may be wondering where First 5 LA gets our

1 data that we need to submit to First 5 California. So
2 there's three sources of data in this organization-wide
3 process that are combined to generate First 5 LA's report
4 to the State. First, the grantees surveyed granted
5 information on populations and demographics of those
6 reached and key accomplishments for the past fiscal year.
7 They also report on data gathered through our annual
8 financial audit, which you heard about from Raoul, and in
9 the previous agenda item. Finally, we work with other
10 First 5 LA staff to summarize evaluations conducted within
11 the fiscal year.

12 Today I'll be focusing on preliminary findings of
13 First 5 LA's annual report data to the State, which
14 includes information on the number of grants and the
15 populations reached through our investments. The full
16 report will be provided as part of the board materials
17 that will be posted for the October board meeting.

18 First 5 California also requires that investments
19 be categorized using First 5 California's four result
20 areas -- the child health investments are those that
21 provide services and supports to improve child health. So
22 these include investments such as Welcome Baby and home
23 visiting programs.

24 Child development investments are those that
25 provide funding for and improve early learning programs;

1 so our ECE workforce registry and our Quality Start
2 Los Angeles investments fall in this category.

3 The family functioning investments provide either
4 short term or intensive Family Supports. Our Little by
5 Little early literacy program is an example that falls
6 under that category.

7 And finally, the systems of care investments are
8 those that focus on advancing systems change such as
9 public -- public advocacy or policy as well as systems
10 building efforts. Our Best Start regional network
11 grantees, policy advocacy funds, and Help Me Grow LA are
12 examples of this category.

13 It is important to note that the First 5
14 California result areas is not how First 5 LA frames our
15 work, and provide an additional perspective than our
16 typical approach to telling First 5 LA's story.

17 So this brings us to our preliminary fiscal year
18 2022/2023 results. I'll focus on how grants were
19 distributed, the number of populations reached, and the
20 age, race, ethnicity, and primary household language of
21 children reached by First 5 LA investments.

22 So starting with our grants and fiscal year
23 '22/'23, if First 5 LA had 86 programmatic grants. This
24 is 16 less than the previous fiscal year as there were
25 contracts that termed out. The bars on the chart are

1 showing us the proportional grants that fell within each
2 First 5 result area as we continue to fund, greater
3 proportion of grants focuses on advancing systems change
4 with 47 out of 86, or 55 percent, categories under here,
5 which is expected given First 5's LA's strategic focus as
6 a systems change agent.

7 Out of the result area that focus on providing
8 direct services, the majority of grants First 5 LA funded
9 focused on improving child health.

10 We will now look at the populations reached
11 through our direct service grants. Even as the total
12 number of First 5 LA grants decreased from the previous
13 fiscal year, First 5 LA reached 5 percent more children
14 and primary caregivers. This increase in numbers reached
15 came mostly from our Little by Little grant, and there was
16 also a small increase in the numbers reached by our
17 Welcome Baby select home visiting and First Connects
18 grant. This year was the first time collecting data on
19 pregnant individuals to give us more insight on the
20 prenatal top populations reached in fiscal year '22/'23.

21 First 5 LA grantees reached a 1,590b pregnant
22 individuals, almost all of whom were reached by the
23 Welcome Baby grantees. In fiscal year '22/'23, First 5 LA
24 also reached over 20,000 unique families through our home
25 visiting and Welcome Baby investments, and over 25

1 providers, mostly through our ECE or force registry
2 investment.

3 On the next three slides, we'll be focusing on
4 child demographics, looking at the age of children. The
5 majority of children reached through First 5 LA
6 investments continued to be less than three years old.
7 Welcome Baby and First Connection grants reached almost
8 exclusively children less than three years old.

9 Consistent with previous years, it appears we are
10 prioritizing supports during the critical development
11 period that occurs birth through age three. This slide
12 shows the breakdown of racism in this City of children
13 reached by First 5 LA investments.

14 Fiscal year '22/'23, nine out of ten children
15 reached through First 5 LA investments are children of
16 color, but the majority being of Hispanic and Latino
17 background. In addition, we also compared the
18 distribution of race and ethnicity in First 5 LA
19 investments, which is represented by the blue bars, to LA
20 County children ages zero through five reached by
21 Medi-Cal, which is represented by the green bars, and the
22 race and ethnicity ages zero through five in LA County
23 overall, which is represented by the pink bars.

24 Investments focus on serving families and
25 communities with high needs; so we knew that the

1 distribution would not match that of the County.

2 Therefore, we also compared it to Medi-Cal, which also
3 serves segments of the population with higher needs.

4 First 5 LA reached a higher portion of Latino and Hispanic
5 than Medi-Cal and LA County children. However, the rest
6 of the race and ethnicity groups were underrepresented,
7 including Black, white, Asian and Pacific Islander and
8 multi-racial children.

9 While not the same, the race and ethnicity of
10 children reached by First 5 LA investments are more in
11 line with the Medi-Cal population for children ages zero
12 through five years than LA County overall. This slide
13 shows the breakdown of primary language spoken in homes of
14 children reached through First 5 LA investment. English
15 was identified as the primary language spoken in homes for
16 about two-thirds of children reached by First 5 LA
17 investment. Almost 30 percent speak a primary language in
18 their homes that is not English. So though we are
19 reaching Latino and Hispanic children, grantees are
20 reporting that the majority of children come from
21 households where English is the primary language.

22 One consideration is is that grantees only report
23 on the primary language spoken at home; so there could be
24 families who identify English as their primary language
25 but could be multilingual homes. But this information is

1 not gathered. Another consideration is the comfort level
2 of caregivers responding to the question about primary
3 language. They might feel stigmatized or discomfort in
4 identifying another language than English as their primary
5 language.

6 With that summary of the result, I will summarize
7 the key take-aways and then discuss next steps.

8 In reviewing the preliminary findings, our four
9 key take-aways I would like to highlight: First, more
10 than half of First 5 investments were focused on systems
11 change. Related to that point, I'd like to note that
12 First 5 California currently does not collect detailed
13 data on the systems change work being done by First 5
14 County commissions; however, it will be highlighting First
15 5 LA's work in advancing systems change through our County
16 highlights which we will share during next month's board
17 meeting.

18 Second, the majority of children reached through
19 First 5 LA investments are younger than three-years old.

20 Third, through -- although through -- First 5 LA
21 investments reached a majority of children of color, there
22 is under-representation of children across all races and
23 ethnicities with the exception of Latino and Hispanic
24 children.

25 Finally, English is reported as the primary

1 language spoken in most homes of children reached by First
2 5 LA investments.

3 So before we transition to discussion. I'd like
4 to give next steps for the annual report. First, we will
5 finalize the report content by incorporating the revenues
6 expenditure data and the County highlights. Next we will
7 present the rest of the report sections at the October 12
8 Board of Commissioners meeting and request approval to
9 submit the full report to First 5 California.

10 Finally, upon receipt of the approval from
11 commissioners, we will submit the report through First 5
12 California's data system by the October 31st submission
13 deadline.

14 So with that, I would like to open up for
15 questions and discussions. And thank you so much.

16 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Thank you HaRi.

17 Questions?

18 COMMISSIONER HEGER: I have one question. Hard
19 to see you up there. But, you know, I'm really interested
20 when we look at the breakdown that's by race or by
21 language or whatever, are we looking at the economics of
22 those various groups? Like, what -- where are they on
23 poverty scale? So we get an idea of the role that that --
24 that finance and money play in their needs. And I can see
25 that a little bit through Medi-Cal. But, I mean, that's a

1 lot more interesting, I think, in terms of how we bring
2 global change for all races in this country is to look at
3 the economics. And -- and regardless of race, a lot of --
4 and obviously, that plays a role. But I'm really
5 interested if we could add that to -- to our assessing
6 various individuals and families that we serve.

7 MS. KIM HAN: Data on income is not data that's
8 required by First 5 California; so we currently do not ask
9 grantees to breakdown information for populations served
10 by their income levels or poverty levels. So that's why
11 we try to compare it with the Medi-Cal populations, and we
12 look at the race in the City. But that said, we are
13 looking to see what are First 5 LA's data needs. That
14 could be something that we might want to explore in the
15 future. And I don't know if Kim Hall is there too, if you
16 want to speak more to it.

17 But just to give a little bit of context of what
18 First 5 California requires, they don't require us to
19 report out on any sort of, like, income or poverty levels
20 of people reached.

21 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Thank you. Thank you,
22 Commissioner Heger, for the question.

23 Executive Director?

24 MS. PLEITEZ-HOWELL: Thank you so much,
25 Commissioner. And this is -- this is one of the questions

1 that we're examining with the strategy plan; so you will
2 see indicators that look at deep poverty and the overall
3 strategic plan as part of our analysis.

4 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Thank you. Thank you.

5 Commissioner Byrd?

6 COMMISSIONER BYRD: So I also want to focus on
7 slide 11 for a second, around the population served. And
8 I'm wondering if part of the under-representation that's
9 being identified is related to the staffing makeup of the
10 agencies delivering services if we're not for both
11 language and the race and culture piece, because I think
12 as the organization shifts to emphasize its equity,
13 diversity, and inclusion work, I would like to see a
14 better representation that reflects the County's
15 demographics, but also the needs in the communities that
16 may not be currently getting reached.

17 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Commissioner Allen.

18 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: I think an interesting
19 question to ask is also what percent of the population is
20 native born. Because, I mean, my experience -- this is
21 totally anecdotal, but my experience is that while
22 particularly in recent years -- and there's a lot of fear
23 on the part of Native families, and there's also an
24 historic distrust of services when somebody offers you
25 supports. Then I think there is some populations that

1 have long histories of skepticism based on that
2 experience. So I think it's worth looking at, you know,
3 to what extent are those people who are sort of fresh to
4 the idea of having someone come and offer something, and
5 that -- I mean, I think all the things that Robert said
6 about it -- Commissioner Byrd said about the language,
7 ethnicity, race, etcetera, of providers is relevant as
8 well.

9 But I do think there are both communities in
10 which receiving services is stigmatized and communities in
11 which there's a lot of skepticism about anything sort of
12 organizational or constitutional that comes to their door
13 offering -- you know where those governing and where
14 organizations come to the door and say we're here to help
15 you. So I think, you know, I think native born is one way
16 of getting that.

17 In terms of income, I mean, Medicaid, Medi-Cal is
18 not, you know, a very finely attuned measure, but it is --
19 you have to be pretty poor to be eligible for Medi-Cal.
20 So I -- I wouldn't dismiss that as a marker for what level
21 of population is of -- you know, for a given race,
22 ethnicity group is, you know, in need of services related
23 to poverty.

24 Another thing we could use is the address.
25 Again, not a perfect marker, but it does tell you how

1 people are in communities where there are high levels of
2 either low income or segregation which are markers of
3 community need.

4 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Commissioner McBride?

5 COMMISSIONER McBRIDE: About the income not
6 necessarily being one of the more important markers,
7 especially when you compare the disparity race provides
8 for infant mortality, with control for income status,
9 marital status, educational status, the disparities are
10 still the same. So we don't want to corner ourselves into
11 looking at income and forgetting that barring all of that,
12 we still have families who are struggling to get the
13 services and care that they need to get the outcomes that
14 we want.

15 And to that, I have a question about just a
16 definition for systems change. As how are we defining
17 system change, especially as it relates to looking at
18 slides six and eight, because the percentage of
19 (unintelligible) family functioning. So in that context,
20 how are we defining systems change?

21 MS. KIM HAN: Thank you for the question. I
22 thank you, Commissioners, for the -- for your comments as
23 well.

24 So how First 5 California defines system change
25 is -- I want to pull up the exact definition, but they

1 consider public policy systems change or anything that has
2 to do with systems building efforts and also efforts to
3 respond to emergency crisis such as Covid-19.

4 The other three result areas, how they define it
5 is work that provides direct services; so anything from
6 home visiting or providing direct services to children
7 families and/or providers. So those that provide services
8 to children and families. So we consider that in First 5
9 California categories that under the child health, child
10 development, and family functioning. And so they have a
11 specific definition for each category that we need to
12 categorize each contract under.

13 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Commissioner Allen.

14 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Just to follow up on that.
15 Given how much the budget goes to systems change, I mean,
16 I would think we would want to encourage First 5
17 California to consider that a marker of success and not
18 just individual's, children served. And I think it raises
19 very interesting questions about how you might quantify
20 the impact of particular change, you know, and are we
21 focusing on the right areas of systems change in terms of
22 both the numbers of children and families affected. And
23 the impact which I think would be very interesting. I
24 think it would be a very useful exercise to have some
25 sense of that, just as you might measure quality in the

1 program in terms of the impact it had on children and
2 families, you know, how big a deal was it? You know, that
3 some system was affected and, you know, I think
4 particularly realistically as the budget contracts, that
5 there's more and more of a focus appropriate for -- for
6 First 5 in that area. Because delivering direct services,
7 it's really expensive for, you know, I think it's very
8 important. And I think it needs to happen.

9 But it may not be the optimal role for First 5
10 LA. And I think being able to say this really mattered,
11 that this wasn't some throw way.

12 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Thank you.

13 MS. PLEITEZ-HOWELL: In regards to the systems
14 change definition, completely agree with what's being
15 shared here. There's the track of or strategic plan or
16 new strategic plan. And those questions are clearly
17 defining and focusing and narrowing what part of what will
18 come to the board on October 12th. And we are defining it
19 differently than this report requires us to look at it.
20 We'll take into advisement connecting with First 5
21 California and lifting up that commissioners here are
22 sharing the importance of looking at that definition and
23 will bring our own definition. But that's the input we
24 will be speaking on October 12th, how are we going to be
25 more narrow in focusing on that particular definition?

1 Because right now, it's been broad. To HaRi's point, it's
2 looking at policy and direct services, mental models that
3 exist in organizations. And so we'll look for some
4 direction on that.

5 COMMISSIONER TILTON DURFEE: First 5 California
6 annual budget -- what is their budget? Do you know?

7 MS. PLEITEZ-HOWELL: Not off the top of my head,
8 commissioner. We could circle back with you on what that
9 budget is, because it is public information.

10 MR. WAGNER: I could -- I just don't know the
11 exact budget on the top of my head. But the reminder on
12 Prop 10 funds flow where First 5 California maintains 20
13 percent of the statewide revenues from the tobacco tax,
14 and then distributes the 80 percent to the Counties like
15 us, and we receive 25 percent of the 80 percent. So we
16 can get the exact number, but it is 20 percent of the
17 statewide collection of Prop 10.

18 COMMISSIONER TILTON DURFEE: Slightly less than
19 LA.

20 MR. WAGNER: Yeah, it would be less than us.

21 COMMISSIONER TILTON DURFEE: Interesting article
22 in LA times about this whole issue. All of you probably
23 saw it. You should probably share that. Questioning the
24 budget and the future of both the State and family
25 programs, which, I guess, are in trouble to even survive.

1 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Commissioner Ramirez?

2 COMMISSIONER RAMIREZ: Thank you, and thank you
3 for this presentation. I had a question about the key
4 take-aways. My question is about key take-away 2, that
5 the majority of children reached are less than three years
6 old. Is that strategically? Or is there some other
7 reason that zero to three is the focus?

8 MS. PLEITEZ-HOWELL: HaRi, I'm happy to jump in.

9 MS. KIM HAN: Well, I can provide context of what
10 programs are reached, zero to three population, and those
11 include Welcome Baby, home visiting investments, as
12 opposed to Little by Little investment, which the Little
13 by Little is headed by WIC; so that's the context. Yeah.
14 Just if you wanted to give a little bit of background
15 information about who is serving these populations younger
16 than three years old.

17 MS. PLEITEZ-HOWELL: And to the strategic
18 question, as we look at our strategic plan, it is looking
19 at a PFI agenda; so we will be seeing some shifts on this.
20 And right now as HaRi answered, it's programmatic focus.
21 We report on services that are offered because that's what
22 First 5 California is asking us to do. The strategic
23 decision moving forward is looking more at P to five

24 COMMISSIONER RAMIREZ: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: It's great discussion. It's

1 great to hear ideas that help us stay focused on the
2 population. Karla, appreciate the response as well and
3 the collaboration.

4 Thank you very much. Any other questions from
5 the commissioners?

6 MS. VO: Confirming there are no public comments
7 on this item.

8 COMMISSIONER RAMOS: This concludes the items
9 that are the purview of the Executive Committee; so I will
10 hand this meeting back over to honorable Commissioner
11 Heger to lead.

12 COMMISSIONER HEGER: I'm working on the honorable
13 part.

14 I would like to move on to the next item, which
15 is an annual review of First 5's current strategic plan.
16 This is a public hearing item; so we will now open it up
17 to public hearing.

18 Antoinette is going to lead this discussion.

19 How are you?

20 MS. ANDREWS BUSH: I'm well. How are you?

21 Good afternoon, Commissioners. Can you hear me?
22 Okay.

23 So, again, good afternoon, Commissioners. Good
24 afternoon to my colleagues who are present, members of the
25 public who may be present and attending virtually as well.

1 This is actually the last of the three presentations
2 taking a retrospective look at what First 5 LA
3 accomplished during the last fiscal year. As my
4 colleagues Raoul and HaRi explained, there's certain
5 requirements First 5 LA must adhere to to as a condition
6 of Proposition 10.

7 So commissioners have heard about the annual
8 audit as well as the annual report. And I need to
9 remember to advance slides. And so there are some other
10 requirements from Prop 10, an annual public hearing on our
11 strategic plan, as well as any public hearing on changes
12 to First 5 LA's strategic plan.

13 Today's presentation is on the current strategic
14 plan that is the 2020-2028 strategic plan that was
15 approved by the board in November of 2019. I will provide
16 some highlights from the last fiscal year, which is
17 actually year three of 2020-2028 strategic plan. And my
18 colleagues here from Health Systems and Family Supports
19 and Early Care and Education and the Communities teams are
20 here to answer any specific questions that commissioners
21 may have about anything that I'll be covering in the
22 presentation. And then we'll receive public comments on
23 part of the hearing on the annual strategic plan.

24 So our work over the last fiscal year advanced
25 three strategic -- four strategic priorities. We focused

1 on improving systems to become family-centered,
2 child-focused, and to promote equitable outcomes. We
3 sought to build connections, support communities-driven
4 systems change, and maximize resources within the five
5 Best Start regions. We looked for ways to elevate parent
6 and provider voice using qualitative data to deepen our
7 understanding of the experiences of prenatal to five and
8 for their families, and finally we worked to strengthen
9 our organizational effectiveness.

10 And as the work was unfolding First 5 LA also
11 started this three-year review and refinement cycle of the
12 strategic plan.

13 Now, because the strategic plan is eight years,
14 spanning from 2020 to 2028, the review and refinement
15 cycles are built into the plan to adapt every three years
16 based on shifts in the external environment, our fiscal
17 reality, and our evolving role. Now, there is a
18 tremendous amount of good work that is happening in each
19 of these four areas that I just outlined.

20 Throughout the last fiscal year, staff shared
21 progress and engaged commissioners as thought partners
22 through the various board presentations and discussions
23 through the last fiscal year. So today, we're going to
24 focus on a small sample of the work that First 5 LA is
25 currently doing or did last year to illustrate that we

1 have engaged in a variety of partnerships, supportive
2 communities, and advancing their priorities for young
3 children and families, strengthen the capacity of
4 organizations, leverage nonFirst 5 LA funding to support
5 the work, and reconsidered our strategic plan to clarify
6 our strategic direction.

7 Year three implementation illustrated our
8 deepening commitment to partnership, to increase the
9 access and availability of public resources and services.
10 It isn't just about First 5 LA being a partner, but also
11 cultivating partnerships at the local level. So I will
12 highlight a few of -- few areas of work to illustrate the
13 diversity of partnerships through quality start LA. First
14 5 LA worked with partnership partners to draw down State
15 funding to implement, expand, and stabilize in diverse
16 early care and education settings throughout Los Angeles
17 County.

18 The Antelope Valley resource infusion is a
19 collaboration between First 5 LA, the LA County Department
20 of Children and Family Services, Department of Mental
21 Health, community-based organizations, other funders, and
22 residents to improve access to coordination of services
23 and neighborhoods where families experiencing the greatest
24 inequities.

25 Through the Family First Prevention Services Act

1 communities pathway, First 5, collaborating with multiple
2 County agencies to support pilot projects, focused on
3 building, improving, and integrating referral Pathways
4 into prevention services.

5 This work is done in partnership with County
6 Children and Family Services, Public Health, Mental
7 Health, Probation, Office of Child Protection, Commission
8 for Children and Families, Children Data Network, and
9 providers, and all of us are working together to
10 coordinate services for families to mitigate the risk of
11 entering the child welfare system.

12 The Link Advocates, Government, Families, and
13 Parks Initiatives, because we couldn't think of another
14 way of naming this. But at least everyone knows who's
15 being linked here -- is one example of First 5 LA's work
16 to cultivate partnerships at a community level. So in
17 partnership with other funders, First 5 LA created the
18 Link model of collaboration between under-resourced
19 municipalities, community-based agencies, parents,
20 residents, and technical assistance providers. And
21 through joint community-driven planning processes,
22 stakeholders work together to identify needs and
23 opportunities, develop priority park projects that align
24 with community interest and needs, and to build the
25 capacity of municipalities to draw down dollars from

1 public funding streams.

2 Now, though First 5 LA's investment in this was
3 approximately 750,000 over a three-year period, because of
4 this project, \$31 million was actually acquired by -- by
5 municipalities in the cities Maywood, Cudahy, and
6 El Monte. So there's improved park space. Our small
7 investment actually brought in quite a bit of money, not
8 just our financial investment but our work to actually
9 cultivate partnerships at the local level.

10 First 5 LA is also a member of the National Home
11 Visiting Coalition Steering Committee, and was a critical
12 voice in advocating for the reauthorization of the federal
13 maternal infant and the MIECHV funding. And First 5 LA is
14 a key driver of the Home Visiting Leadership Council
15 Steering Committee that supports County-wide collaboration
16 efforts to identify new funding streams for home visiting
17 services, improve data sharing, and support the quality of
18 home visiting services throughout the County.

19 So those are the kinds of things that First 5 LA
20 has done over the last fiscal year in the area of
21 partnership.

22 For several years, First 5 LA has invested in
23 community investment, particularly through Best Start. So
24 last fiscal year, demonstrated how we work as evolved to
25 create space for community with (inaudible) and agency to

1 improve conditions for young children and their families
2 from their earliest moments. Through the Village Fund and
3 community action teams, First 5 LA supported black-led
4 organizations to implement innovative strategies for
5 improving birth outcomes. Through Help Me Grow advisory
6 council, First 5 advisory group comprised of 12 parent
7 champions with a focus on ensuring early childhood
8 resources meet the needs of families with children with or
9 at risk of behavioral and/or developmental delays and
10 disabilities.

11 First 5 LA support a participatory blending in
12 Best Start regions as an example of community-driven grant
13 making where communities determine the best use of First 5
14 LA resources to support their priorities for children
15 prenatal to five and their families. And one example of
16 this is over 550 residents voting on community priorities
17 -- so one example of the community-based participatory
18 budgeting is over 550 residents voted on community
19 priorities through South LA decides initiative and Best
20 Start region 2 which comprises of Compton, Watts,
21 Willowbrook, West Adams, and the Broadway Manchester area.
22 And one of the projects is a guaranteed basic income pilot
23 providing direct cash payments to 100 mothers of children
24 prenatal to five living in Region 2.

25 And First 5 LA continues its investment in

1 strengthening networks in Best Start regions. Through
2 network building, First 5 LA and community partners are
3 working to strengthen the web of relationships between
4 parents, residents, organizations, public agencies, and
5 other key stakeholders so that resources can be mobilized,
6 that innovation can be sparked, and that there is
7 collective action to improve conditions for children
8 prenatal to five and their families.

9 We also learned last year that strengthening
10 nonprofit infrastructure within communities is also
11 critical to achieve meaningful results for children and
12 families. First 5 LA invested in capacity building to
13 help stabilize scale and integrate to help organizations
14 to stabilize scale and integrate their efforts to better
15 serve children and families.

16 So some examples of this if is First 5 LA and
17 County Department of Public Health partnered with LA Care
18 Health Plan to host a children's health conference. The
19 conference, which is part of the Help Me Grow initiative
20 trained providers on how to integrate early identification
21 and intervention protocols and to practice workload and
22 also to increase awareness of the developmental screening
23 supporting providers and having developmental
24 conversations with families and caregivers and ensuring
25 that providers have the latest information on working with

1 regional centers for providing developmental services.

2 First 5 LA supports an Early Care and Education
3 provider advisory group to ensure the voice and
4 perspectives of ECE providers throughout the County inform
5 our ECE systems work. The provider advisory group met
6 with representatives from the childcare alliance of Los
7 Angeles and the childcare resource center to discuss
8 provider experiences with their local resource and
9 referral agencies to improve those practices.

10 First 5 LA in partnership with the Children's
11 Hospital of Los Angeles, released the early screening
12 better outcomes developmental screening referral and
13 outreach tool kit for family resource centers. This is a
14 practical guide to help family resource centers implement
15 or refine high quality approach to outreach and linkages
16 to services.

17 First 5 LA also culminated a two-year initiative
18 that provided capacity building services to about 194
19 nonprofit organizations within Best Start regions. Those
20 capacity-building services included technical assistance,
21 training, and coaching in the areas such as developing
22 strategies, partnerships, policy and advocacy tools,
23 leveraging data, how to do systems change, administrative
24 infrastructure, fund development, and organizational
25 wellness.

1 One of the lessons from this work is that
2 nonprofits while they are resilient need to continue
3 capacity building and connection. Across the nonprofit
4 sector many organizations serving communities continue to
5 struggle in isolation due to the pandemic and the
6 resulting economic fallout as well as ongoing injustices.
7 And so they're grappling with a lot of the kinds of
8 external issues that we highlighted through our landscape
9 analysis most recently and they're also grappling with
10 organizational challenges related to funding and staff and
11 increased community need.

12 And as Raoul noted during his presentation on the
13 audit, First 5 LA has been doing a good job of retracting
14 alternative revenue. And so Raoul talked about that in
15 the audit today, there was also a presentation earlier
16 this month on the sustainability strategy which includes
17 generating alternative revenue. So the First 5 LA through
18 its partnerships is actually available to track sources
19 such as those listed here.

20 Finally, last fiscal year we started to adjust
21 First 5 LA's strategic direction. When the plan was
22 approved in 2019 board members and staff knew that the
23 work that we do is in a very dynamic context, and that
24 community conditions can change very rapidly. We knew
25 that in 2019 and then 2020 hit with a pandemic. But with

1 that understanding, we had the foresight to build in a
2 three-year refinement, like, into the strategic plan so
3 that we can be flexible and responsive to shifts in the
4 external environment and apply learning from
5 implementation for continuous improvement.

6 So our first three-year refinement cycle started
7 last fiscal year. We were hearing from our staff and
8 stakeholders that what First 5 LA was was not clear. This
9 first three-year refinement cycle was an opportunity to
10 clarify and focus our work for greater impact.

11 We completed initial refinement which were
12 approved by the board in November of 2022. With the
13 change in the executive leadership, First 5 conducted a
14 deeper dive into the impact of the pandemic on children
15 and families and how we might maximize our resources in
16 spite of declining revenue to achieve meaningful results
17 for children and family. So we conducted a landscape
18 analysis in the internal and external context in which
19 First 5 LA does its work, which also included
20 opportunities which the board provided some insight on
21 that First 5 LA can leverage to expand our reach and
22 achieve long-lasting results.

23 And now our new proposed strategic plan is being
24 developed using a results-based accountability frame work
25 with clear goals, measurement objectives, and strategies.

1 So we seek to actually answer the feedback that we got
2 from our stakeholders and staff that our strategic plan
3 was not clear.

4 So with our new proposed strategic plan which we
5 have been having conversations with the board with over
6 the last several months, we seek to clarify what we're
7 actually trying to achieve -- how and why.

8 So in terms of next steps, as I shared a lot of
9 information here to the point where my microphone kept
10 going in and out, but, you know, the -- our colleagues
11 will share more highlights and evaluation findings from
12 our work and I'm sure they will share that at the October
13 board meeting. And at the October board meeting we will
14 also have another public hearing, but it will be on the
15 new strategic -- on the new proposed strategic plan.

16 So as I started the presentation there is a
17 requirement that we do an annual public hearing on our
18 strategic plan and a public hearing whenever there are
19 changes to our strategic plan. So that public hearing
20 will be happening in October.

21 And with that that concludes our presentation.
22 And as I said, my colleagues are here to answer any
23 questions that you have about any of the specific work.

24 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Thank you very much. I
25 really appreciate that report. I sit here as -- as a

1 provider of care to the people who have fallen way below
2 certain lines of access to care. And I really want us to
3 focus on making sure that everyone has access to it. All
4 the services are good services and it's one of the things
5 that I'm working on outside of my medical career is how to
6 be carrying out certain information so that families can
7 refer to care. Because I found myself in my program
8 during the pandemic responsible for providing food,
9 housing, utilities, soap, clothing, back to school
10 supplies to most of the patients that I see. It was, you
11 know, it was a tremendously frustrating time for very poor
12 people. And I wanted them to have so much of what we were
13 getting access to. It was not always easy.

14 So in all of this I am concerned about that
15 population and across the County it changes in terms of
16 who they are and where they come from, etcetera. And high
17 desert is very different than east LA and other parts of
18 the County.

19 So I'm really -- and you've heard me say this
20 before -- but I'd love us to be more making sure that
21 there's a clearinghouse of access and that poor families
22 don't live in isolation and not knowing that they could
23 have so much of what -- you know, of what we want to
24 deliver. And, you know, that's -- that's I'm learning so
25 much from my patients in terms of what they need and we

1 understand -- I mean, things like laundry soap. There's
2 simple things like that that people need and they don't
3 have access to.

4 So I'm just a component of that. That's why I
5 talk so much about economics because my population doesn't
6 know how to have access, and I'd love for them to have
7 home visitation. I'd love for them to have a better early
8 childhood education, and they don't really know how to get
9 there.

10 So that's where I am. But thank you very much.
11 It's enlightening and wonderful to be part of this
12 commission because of what you guys do. You have my
13 heart.

14 Anything else?

15 COMMISSIONER TILTON DURFEE: I totally agree with
16 Astrid. It's really, really hard how to figure out not
17 only how to provide necessities to families, but to enable
18 them to now how to access them. So when you say public
19 hearings, I -- I light up because I think now we're going
20 to be out there getting all this feedback directly. We'll
21 know exactly how the public feels about what we're doing.
22 It's a challenge; so I'm saying maybe we can really focus
23 hard on how those public hearings are presented. What the
24 language is. Where they are. Who's invited. Because if
25 we just stand up there and say what do you think of our

1 strategic plan, and we'll just show logistics, it's very
2 different from what do you specifically need? How can we
3 help you? It's -- it's -- it's a challenge. So when we
4 get to that point, I'd like us to be creative about it.

5 So thanks great presentation.

6 COMMISSIONER McBRIDE: Thank you for the slide
7 seven where it says alternative revenue. And please
8 forgive me if I should know this, but what percent of any
9 of our revenue comes from philanthropic partners and
10 endowments and is there an opportunity to expand that.

11 MS. ANDREWS BUSH: That is a good question.

12 MS. PLEITEZ-HOWELL: I'm happy to address some of
13 this. So Commissioner, one, we've made a strategic
14 decision to not go after philanthropic dollars; so we're
15 not in competition with community-based organizations that
16 are often looking to get those dollars. And in regards to
17 diversifying our funds, there is a sustainability plan
18 that the team is looking at that will look at one part our
19 internal assets to diversify funding so look at building
20 space and use and then, two, sort of public policy agenda
21 that looks at additional dollars that might be coming down
22 to LA County. And we partnered with departments here to
23 look at this diversity, but we're happy to go over that.
24 But philanthropic dollars is not something we want to get
25 in the business of.

1 MS. ANDREWS BUSH: Thank you, Karla. And one
2 thing that I would just add is -- I'll just link as an
3 example, we're not going after philanthropic dollars, but
4 we do invite our philanthropic partners to the table. So
5 we're able to maximize additional resources. So it's not
6 coming to us. It's really going to shared priorities.

7 COMMISSIONER McBRIDE: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER BYRD: You just answered one of the
9 questions I was going to raise. If we're not directly
10 going after philanthropic funding how do we better partner
11 with our CBOs within the communities to maximize those
12 opportunities, because I do think there are times that
13 philanthropy does want to work with First 5 given the
14 mission. Most of that in the CBO that we may not be as
15 well known because of the stature and reputation of the
16 organization.

17 The second question I had along the lines of
18 Commissioner McBride is what grant funding is the
19 organization pursuing and how do we maximize some of the
20 grant opportunities that maybe coming down from the State
21 in partnership with County departments or CBOs or
22 independent

23 MS. PATTON: So the ECE Team does bring in some
24 State dollars mainly through First 5 California with our
25 impact funding and we actually partner with LACOE on that.

1 So LACOE pulls down we pull down one. We're able to blend
2 and braid that funding to sort of fully fund we're always
3 looking for opportunities like that. So that's an example
4 of something that's existing but there's other
5 opportunities we should be out there exploring.

6 COMMISSIONER BYRD: So just to add to -- and I
7 really appreciate that information. I'm not sure I knew
8 about that before. And I do think that there's
9 opportunities for partnerships across multiple County
10 departments. Commissioner Allen. Because there's
11 opportunities around prevention and reimagined at the
12 State level and I think that there will be grants coming
13 for and continuing to come. We would like to partner from
14 the DMH side with the organization.

15 MS. FICEK: I would like to just add on the track
16 of alternative revenue; so for AAIMM I can speak to the
17 MUO we have with DPH, those are State funds through
18 Perinatal Equity Initiative. So a lot of the funding
19 we're leveraging right now is a State source of funding.
20 Medi-Cal, obviously, that's State funds; so yeah. We're
21 definitely looking at it and we would love to continue to
22 think about where things are coming and shifting and
23 changing to be ready to access that.

24 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Deborah, do you have a
25 comment?

1 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: It was the same
2 philanthropic pursuing them.

3 COMMISSIONER HEGER: I think that's an excellent
4 idea. Are there any other comments from the commissioners
5 or anyone else in the room?

6 MR. CALDERON: I'd just like to add that in the
7 communities team, we've really started to lean into our
8 role as connector. We have been asked how can First 5 LA
9 connect us to other funders? You have that visibility
10 map, those relationships. We've actually designed our
11 agenda to be able to create spaces where we can bring
12 groups together in Long Beach, for instance, they've
13 ignited the Funders Collaborative from the California
14 endowments building healthy communities effort. And to
15 really look at how we partner with local community-based
16 organizations but also work that's coming from the Best
17 Start regions and others as well.

18 COMMISSIONER HEGER: I think that's a brilliant
19 idea to be a connector and facilitator and enabler to get
20 various communities, organizations to be qualified to go
21 after funding, and also the one of the things on the
22 national level working with some of the child abuse
23 organizations looking at leaders in the field and their
24 ability to help organizations meet the qualifications. In
25 other words, have the data and the expertise and the

1 ability to review their proposals and enable them to be
2 more effective in bringing in dollars.

3 One of the recommendations that we're making and
4 looking at, hope we make them be more viable in that
5 regard, rather than competitive. That has been an issue.

6 Are there any other comments or are we going to
7 go to public comments at this time?

8 MS. VO: We do have one public comment, and it's
9 a virtual public comment from Fiona Stuart.

10 You do have two minutes beginning now.

11 MS. VO: Ms. Fiona Stuart.

12 Speaker: Good afternoon. Can you hear me?
13 Great. Thank you.

14 My name is Fiona Stuart, and I am the program
15 director for the Childcare Alliance of Los Angeles. We
16 are a long time partner with First 5 LA, and we thank you
17 for all our support and collaborations through the years.
18 What I wanted to elevate today was the support for the
19 Early Care and Education workforce.

20 As you continue to think about our strategic work
21 going forward; so those early educators who provide the
22 nurturing relationships and environments and the high
23 quality childcare to build that foundation for lifelong
24 success given your focus on systems change work that we've
25 heard about today and what seems to be less investment in

1 child development, I'd like to raise the concern that this
2 workforce is critical supporting children's outcomes as
3 well as families economic stability. In short, childcare
4 keeps the family working. That should be included in how
5 you present your systems change investments. And as you
6 know, this is a workforce in crisis. As Dr. Austin and
7 others at the Center for Childcare Employment continuously
8 champion, this is a workforce that is frequently under
9 great stress due to low compensation, little access to
10 benefits, and challenging work environments. And this
11 stress on top of a historic and systemic racism and sexism
12 built into this field, make achieving and sustaining the
13 high quality environment and nurturing relationships known
14 to impact children's outcomes. And as you heard when we
15 see recently presented the landscape analysis done in
16 partnership with First 5 LA across the various study, who
17 parents choose and need to care for their children more
18 than 60 percent of them do not have any access to
19 benefits.

20 Less than 10 percent have any retirement account
21 or paid sick time. So we'd appreciate all you have done
22 to lift up this workforce and we urge to you keep them at
23 the forefront of your strategic planning work.

24 Thank you for your time.

25 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Thank you. Are there any

1 other public comments?

2 MS. VO: No other public comments.

3 COMMISSIONER HEGER: In that case, we'll move on
4 to the next item which I believe is a break.

5 MS. VO: That is a correct.

6 COMMISSIONER HEGER: We'll take ten minute break
7 at this time. Which means we should be back here in ten
8 minutes. Thank you very much.

9 (A brief break.)

10 COMMISSIONER HEGER: We need to get started
11 again.

12 Thank you guys for being here and hearing what
13 you have to say.

14 MS. VO: Ofelia, if I may just interrupt for a
15 moment I do want to indicate for public record that
16 Yvette Martinez did step off of the meeting, but we still
17 have quorum so we can proceed with all the commission
18 items for today's meeting.

19 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Thank God for you Linda.
20 Thank you.

21 MS. MEDINA: Thank you. Anais and I have the
22 pleasure of going through a lot of the work that our OGAP
23 team or (unintelligible) public policy did. And I will
24 say that they're all sitting in the background of the
25 room. But to help guide the conversation for today we

1 wanted to provide you a quick snapshot of the topics that
2 will be reviewed.

3 First, we'll provide some context setting and
4 recap of the policy and advocacy activities of this past
5 year. Some of them are still ongoing because
6 (unintelligible) guest. This will give you a review of
7 First 5 LA's State budget, legislative and administrative
8 priorities as well as the activities at the federal level.

9 And Anais will dive into the 2024 policy agenda
10 update where we continue to outline our approach, giving
11 you the status of the strategic plan to (unintelligible)
12 sure that there's alignment preview of the 2024 advocacy
13 and board engagement for the first two quarters of the
14 year and then open up the floor for any questions or
15 comments that we might have.

16 Before we dive into the policy and advocacy
17 activities, I do want to provide you with a quick
18 refresher on the political and budget landscape we have
19 this year. Until later this month, despite the forecast
20 we did see childcare remain a top priority for the -- the
21 legislature becoming a top negotiation point during the
22 budget negotiations and the administration and the
23 numbers. Adding to the complexity of things Sacramento
24 did welcome it's largest freshman legislators in over a
25 decade and voted on a new assembly speaker ushering in a

1 new era for California politics. For our Government
2 Affairs team, this meant having to introduce our work and
3 educate policymakers on the importance of prenatal to five
4 care.

5 Finally, on February 28th, Governor Newsom ended
6 California's Covid-19 State of emergency, signaling a
7 shift in how State law makers could approach investments
8 during the 2023 legislative and budget cycle. Where
9 previous much of the State's resources and focus were on
10 combating the impact of the pandemic at the federal level,
11 the national public health emergency, and current
12 landscape, at the moment we have more reactive than
13 proactive opportunities.

14 We also wanted to provide commissioners with a
15 window into some of the departments and agencies that are
16 working on ways to impact are the Department of Health
17 Care and Services, Social Services, and Education.

18 Federally, we have the centers for Medicare and
19 Medicaid services and Health Resources and Services
20 Administration and the Department of Agriculture. Over
21 the course of five years, OGAP has made a concentrated
22 effort to increase our administrative advocacy, knowing
23 that even in the State proposal, it passes through the
24 legislative and ultimately assigned by the governor, it
25 still be voted, and there's a lot of work to be done at

1 the preliminary implementation level.

2 Moving forward into the presentation, you'll see
3 us callout the different departments, agencies, connected
4 activities, to help paint a full picture of our
5 engagement.

6 So now we're let's get into our budget
7 priorities. For the early (unintelligible) we had three
8 approved priorities this year which included early
9 learning, rate reform, the waiving or elimination of early
10 family fee, and maintaining 20,000 additional
11 (unintelligible) reform of California early learning
12 reimbursement system was a top priorities for First 5 LA.
13 (Unintelligible) leading talking point during Advocacy Day
14 last April.

15 Also in collaboration with partners with the ECE
16 coalition, advocacy meetings in Sacramento our collective
17 effort was successful because the final budget did dictate
18 resources moving the State into a single reimbursement
19 system using a cost based model.

20 Similarly the 2022/2023 enacted budget
21 (unintelligible) committed to prioritizing 20 million in
22 ongoing fundage to provide continual med under the age of
23 five years old starting in 2025.

24 Also (unintelligible) but also that the estate
25 follow through on this funding depending on conditions.

1 Although First 5 LA advocated to the State legislature for
2 inclusion of these policy. And law makers in fact did
3 (unintelligible) version of their budget. Following the
4 negotiation of the governor continued eligibility
5 (unintelligible). However, law makers then concluded in
6 next year's budget and last year enacted the budget
7 lawmakers voted to permanently raise to (unintelligible)
8 have half of the federal poverty level starting in 2025.
9 Again, this would current (unintelligible) follow up
10 through \$50 million of general funds was allocated to a
11 permanent 10 percent increase in the powers.

12 And the further investment in fiscal year '23-'24
13 to increase CalWORKS grants by an additional
14 (unintelligible) goes into effect August 1st. In a couple
15 of days. October 1st. Thank you.

16 Together, this brings California much closer to
17 the 50 percent federal poverty level threshold
18 (unintelligible) desires finally we're monitoring
19 discussions around the renewal of the managed care
20 organization task in the January budget proposal law
21 makers of administration (unintelligible) how to spend
22 funds from the talk managed care organizations unlike
23 previous date (unintelligible) regimes which spend the
24 revenue to general fund accounts, the current tax plan
25 will provide money specific to specific accounts.

1 This year our team shifted from does and
2 (unintelligible) of bill and had analyzed tracked a total
3 of bills four of those reached a threshold of back by
4 First 5 LA you see listed on the stream AB 59 and FG which
5 were put together because they're mirror bills except that
6 one is going through the assembly process and the other
7 through the Senate. Still comprehensive reform of
8 California early learning similar to budget
9 (unintelligible) our being the priority while both bills
10 we're not discouraged by this. Because this means that
11 the proposal still has the potential to become a vehicle
12 for policy change at a later time. Plus main provision of
13 these bills are included in the final items of budget.

14 AB 10 is a bill that wire the don't of social
15 services to administer a statewide program for as a low
16 income families with infants and toddlers under three is
17 waiting the governor's signature. Build on the
18 infrastructure of and allocate and regional entities to
19 low income families would authorize. (Unintelligible)
20 that take place on the same day at a single sight
21 qualified clinic or through a telehealth encounter is
22 currently held under submission meaning there's no motion
23 for the bill to progress out of committee. On the wait
24 list, a bill to mention SB326 by (unintelligible) by lot
25 of conversations both locally and State level about

1 Governor Newsom's modifying the mental health and services
2 act is currently waiting for the governor (unintelligible)
3 children's association work to include prenatal to 5.
4 And in doing that on our administrative State policy work
5 the rate quality advisory panel deliver (unintelligible)
6 quality and work group of able currently discussing how to
7 OGAP along with a lot of our ECE colleagues virtually
8 meeting ours priority administration advocacy was also
9 monitoring the newly administered (unintelligible) namely
10 the doula implementation work group which went into effect
11 this past January.

12 The doula implementation work group serves the
13 (unintelligible) lessons learned and barriers in the
14 process of implementing this benefit and includes
15 including doulas managed care plan (unintelligible) and
16 the health care service priors.

17 Medi-Cal for kids and teens is a new terminology
18 after (unintelligible) announced a rebranding for the
19 existing (unintelligible) diagnostic and treatment benefit
20 as part of the CalAIM strategy to support health and
21 opportunity for children and families. We're monitoring
22 the implementation of this rebranding (unintelligible) or
23 process as part of the broader efforts to support legal in
24 improving access to screening below the age of five.

25 CalAIM consists of a series of reformations as

1 (unintelligible) enrolled in Medi-Cal especially for those
2 with more complex needs the implementation of January of
3 last year and further faced (unintelligible) continues to
4 monitor these changes and understand the impact on Cal AIM
5 on children and families to identify support local manage
6 the cared plan in their implementation efforts.

7 Lastly administered by the California Department
8 of Social Services the supplemental assistance program,
9 CalFresh and California was significantly reduce -- will
10 significantly reduce in March of this year.

11 The sunseting of CalFresh emergency allotments
12 during Covid times caused California to see a dramatic
13 drop in their food benefits First 5 LA has monitored these
14 changes and is (unintelligible) looking for State to
15 continue support families by increasing security.

16 And now I'll turn it over no Anais to guide us
17 through the 2023 and the rest of our presentation.

18 MS. DURAN: Thank you. Before I start I want to
19 highlight for our new board of commissioners that First 5
20 LA has been building our federal footprint in DC for over
21 the last ten years. I used to work at the Raven Group and
22 was one of First 5 LA's federal advocates and I'm proud
23 that I still continue to represent our work and I'm proud
24 that our work on the federal level has never stopped
25 especially now with so much at stake.

1 So with that, we do have some immediate
2 updates that are not listed on the Power Point because of
3 recent developments but I'll start with the shut down
4 which it looks like it's imminent unless Congress can pass
5 a plan to continue funding the government at midnight
6 which is when the fiscal year ends. The Senate has passed
7 a continued funding the government through November 17th
8 but due to the dynamics within house republicans, they
9 haven't been able to pass a bill together.

10 This would of course greatly disrupt the nation
11 especially for a handful of federal programs that people
12 rely on every day. Most importantly for us within this
13 fiscal deadline also comes the operation of childcare
14 investments that were passed under the American rescue
15 plan we know this will he create a huge childcare crisis
16 and impact our economy. It will certainly make a dent in
17 the progress that we've made over the past couple of years
18 and people of color. In California alone, more than 87
19 are set to lose childcare and more than 13,000 childcare
20 programs are expected to close.

21 First 5 LA has joined national partners in asking
22 congress for \$60 million each year to continue extending
23 these funds as a result legislation was childcare
24 (unintelligible) act which expands that funding for the
25 next five years.

1 OGAP has done outreach of and senators to
2 advocate on the crisis and we're asking them to support
3 the legislation. We've also assigned onto national
4 letters and we sported a First 5 network with contraction
5 and templates commissions can use to reach out to their
6 old members as well. We know this funding will
7 potentially expire by this weekend so we expect this will
8 continue being an immediate priority for us while we do
9 have two strategically (unintelligible) over work because
10 there are numerous current pressing issues SNAP, CalFresh,
11 and (unintelligible) and WIC are also under threat of
12 being under funded.

13 The farm bill which holds major SNAP provisions
14 is up for authorization this year and Congress has an
15 opportunity to increase funding. OGAP wrote an article on
16 the importance of SNAP and food nutrition assistance
17 programs that will use a (unintelligible) advocacy tool as
18 farm bills continue happening. And regards to the FY24
19 (unintelligible) package that will set money levels for
20 the year ahead. Human committee has voted to increase
21 funding by one million over FY23 levels for childcare and
22 early learning programs.

23 However, the preschool development grant would
24 see on the house side they've agreed to level fund the
25 childcare agreement development block grant to 8 billion

1 which is a good thing; however, they're compulsory cuts
2 and I'm going to say the board slash because they're
3 slashing many other critical programs, negotiations are
4 still happening, and they will continue after this
5 potential shut down gets resolved and OGAP will be
6 advocating to ensure members are committed to prioritizing
7 allocation for important childcare development programs
8 and services so more to come on the federal level.

9 But now we'll transition to discuss the 2024
10 policy agenda and we'll start by providing a quick review
11 of the purpose of this job. The policy agenda authorizes
12 First 5 LA's policy and advocacy work informing where
13 First 5 LA leads supports or does not engage on policy
14 issues. It recognizes the full range of policy changes
15 necessary to achieve desired outcomes including budget
16 items, legislation, and administrative change. And also
17 guides the organizations, public policy analysis, and any
18 proposal development we may engage in. Finally, it
19 supports efforts to advance long term change and will
20 respond to short term needs. (Unintelligible) issues and
21 2024 marks the 4th year since First 5 LA made the critical
22 shift to focus on equity. As foundation of our policy
23 agenda and our policy work, this was a conscious decision
24 and made in response to the social movements following the
25 unjust killings of George Floyd and Brianna Taylor in 2020

1 and recognizing that structural racism is within many of
2 the systems and institutions that families interact with
3 (unintelligible) and families of LA.

4 We prioritize equity in the policy agenda by
5 uplifting the need to close race based disparities across
6 health well-being and opportunity by utilizing the best
7 available data availability. We'll complete and
8 disaggregated data and promoting a (unintelligible) that
9 is linguistically and culturally responsive.

10 Before we dive into the priority areas and the
11 policy agenda, I do want to preface that we recognize the
12 organization is working on our strategic plan with the
13 revised mission and so these are subject to change once
14 that process is complete. However, for the purpose of
15 this conversation we are operating under the plan and the
16 priorities that we have currently established. So the
17 2024 policy agenda advocacies for advocate advances
18 policy.

19 The following community priority areas promotes a
20 comprehensive supports to advance positive outcomes for
21 the whole child and whole family and improves systems to
22 promote the optimal development of children to early
23 identification and supports. (Unintelligible) and
24 education. And ensures communities have the reasons and
25 environment that supports optimal development for children

1 ages three to five.

2 Now we'll be looking forward to 2024. OGAP will
3 update the policy agenda to reflect the new strategic
4 plan. This will be done in collaboration with offices and
5 CCFI teams to ensure that the policy agenda aligns. With
6 the organizations (unintelligible) framework we intend to
7 complete the engagement process. Earlier in the year and
8 reach into the board before the end of the first quarter
9 to present the refined policy agenda for approval.

10 And lastly to provide you with a clearer overview
11 of what to expect next year here it is our projected US
12 here our projected advocacy roadmap and board engagement.
13 So January one is the new legislative session. Usually
14 January one -- typically on or before January 10th the
15 governor will release the proposed State budget. In
16 February, the First 5 association is holding their
17 advocacy day from the 5th to the 7th this year,
18 tentatively. (Unintelligible) return that month to the
19 board to policy general at that March through May is going
20 when legislative communities take place which depending on
21 approved priorities with the important of our State
22 lobbyist California strategies will attend and monitor on
23 or about May 15th. The governor will release his revised
24 budget so leading up to this point through June we will be
25 holding advocacy meeting targeting specifically our

1 delegation or LA delegation to advance and priorities.

2 Currently budget conference (unintelligible) have
3 been around that time. This all calumniates in June when
4 the legislature will release its budget typically mid June
5 followed by the governor's final State budget at the end
6 of the month. And the last day of the legislative session
7 is from 10 August. And finally September to October,
8 which is where we are now, is when the governor will sign
9 or veto any of those bills.

10 And that concludes our presentation. Thanks so
11 much for your time. Now we'll open it for anything that's
12 on top of mind for you or if you have any questions or
13 comments.

14 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Comments? Questions?

15 Thank you very much. It's amazing. And a little
16 depressing. Or a lot depressing.

17 MS. DURAN: We definitely brought the darkness
18 today.

19 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Are there any public
20 comments?

21 MS. VO: Confirming there are no public comments
22 on this item.

23 COMMISSIONER HEGER: All right. And can we move
24 onto -- I'm not sure how to do Item 9. It's a written
25 only.

1 MS. VO: Item 9 is a written only. It's to
2 establish a strategic partnership with Health Federation
3 of Philadelphia in the amount of \$400,000. Unless
4 commissioners have any comments or questions, we'll move
5 on to just marking this as information and proceed to the
6 next item.

7 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Is there any presentation on
8 this other than that?

9 MS. VO: Confirming there is no presentation on
10 the item, but there was a brief provided to commissioners
11 and the public for their review and reference.

12 COMMISSIONER HEGER: I see. Are there any
13 comments on this written response from the board? No.
14 All right, if not, I guess we need to vote on anything
15 about this?

16 MS. VO: There is no action on this item. This
17 item will be coming back on the consent agenda for the
18 following month for action. And if there aren't any board
19 comments, I will confirm there are no public comments on
20 this item.

21 COMMISSIONER HEGER: Thank you. Are there any
22 public comments or board comments on items that aren't on
23 the agenda for today?

24 MS. VO: If there are no board comments,
25 confirming there are no public comments on items that are

1 not on the agenda.

2 COMMISSIONER HEGER: So does that mean we can
3 adjourn for the day?

4 MS. VO: Confirming we may adjourn this meeting.

5 COMMISSIONER HEGER: All right. Thank you all
6 very, very much.

7 (At 3:34 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Heatherlynn Gonzalez, a Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of California, License Number 13646, do hereby attest that:

The preceding is a true and accurate transcription of the meeting of the organization named herein;

The meeting was taken down stenographically and transcribed into English under my supervision and authority;

I have no interest, financial or otherwise, in any of the parties, issues, or individuals who are involved in this organization.

Attested to on this 12th day of October 2023.

DocuSigned by:
Heatherlynn Gonzalez

AE10E8980664405...
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

First 5 LA

SUBJECT:

Amend Strategic Partnership with the California Community Foundation (CCF) Community Initiatives Fund, Fiscal Sponsor for the Los Angeles Partnership for Early Childhood Investment in the Amount of \$450,000 for a Total of \$1,600,000 Through June 30, 2025 to Build Upon Sustainability Strategies for the African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative (AAIMM) Community Action Teams and Continue Supporting the Village Fund Pooled Fund.

RECOMMENDATION (PROVIDED AS INFORMATION):

This memo is provided as information for the Board's consideration at the April 25, 2024, Program and Planning Committee meeting. First 5 LA staff recommends at the May 9, 2024, Commission meeting, the Board approve the amendment of a Strategic Partnership with California Community Foundation (CCF) Community Initiatives Fund, Fiscal Sponsor for the Los Angeles Partnership for Early Childhood Investment (THE PARTNERSHIP) in the amount of \$450,000 for a total of \$1,600,000 through June 30, 2025. Funds for FY23-24 are included within the current First 5 LA Programmatic Budget under AAIMM Birth Outcomes and Disparities – Policy and Systems Change, which was approved by the Board of Commissioners in June 2023. Funds for FY24-25 are included in the FY 2024-25 Programmatic budget which will be brought to the Board of Commissioners for approval in June 2024. At the time of budget approval, requested resources will shift from the Assigned resource category of the fund balance, dedicated for broad Strategic Plan purposes, to the Committed category, amounts dedicated for a more specified purpose via resolution.

BACKGROUND:

Los Angeles County's African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative (AAIMM)

Led by the L.A. County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) and in partnership with First 5 LA, the Los Angeles County African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative (AAIMM) was launched in 2018 as part of LACDPH's plan to address the Black-White infant mortality gap in L.A. County. Black mothers are currently four times more likely to die from pregnancy complications than their white counterparts, while Black infants are three times more likely to die within their first year of life.

Through a series of comprehensive, coordinated strategies, AAIMM seeks to address the unacceptably high rates of Black infant and maternal deaths countywide and ensure healthy and joyous births for Black families in LA County. A central component of AAIMM is recognizing and addressing racism and the stress resulting from exposure to racism as the root cause of birth disparities. First 5 LA's Strategic Partnership with THE PARTNERSHIP is part of First 5 LA's investment in the AAIMM Initiative.

AAIMM Innovation Fund

In June 2020, the First 5 LA Board of Commissioners approved a Strategic Partnership with THE PARTNERSHIP to contribute \$300,000 to the AAIMM Innovation Fund, a pooled fund leveraging public and private funding sources to support the sustainability of AAIMM and invest in community-driven innovation. Under the Strategic Partnership, First 5 LA funds support two main areas of work:

- **AAIMM Community Action Teams Advocacy & Capacity Building Support:** AAIMM Community Action Teams (CATs) are regional collaboratives co-led by community and LACDPH, that seek to both engage their community on countywide AAIMM strategies and to implement regional birth equity strategies. Currently there are four CATs operating: South LA/South Bay (Service Planning Area/SPAs 6 and 8, "South LA/South Bay"), Antelope Valley

(SPA 1, "Antelope Valley"), San Gabriel Valley (SPA 3, "San Gabriel Valley"), and Santa Clarita & San Fernando (SPA 2, "Santa Clarita/San Fernando").

- **Village Fund (Community Grantmaking):** Three-year grants ranging from \$5,500 to \$33,000 to fund innovative, community-led strategies to support the well-being of Black birthing families. Examples of Village Fund projects have included new parents' support groups, lactation & breast/chestfeeding support, community care circles, COVID-19 self-care packages, and more. More information is available at: https://www.blackinfantsandfamilies.org/the_village_fund.

In July 2022, the Board of Commissioners approved an amendment to First 5 LA's Strategic Partnership with THE PARTNERSHIP, authorizing an additional \$400,000 to fund CATs backbone support and additional capacity-building (for a project total of \$700,000). "Backbone support" refers to a minimum amount of funding needed to operate, grow and sustain the CATs' organizational infrastructure. Under the approved amendment, THE PARTNERSHIP's work on the AAIMM Innovation Fund was expanded to include oversight of the procurement and onboarding of CATs backbone agencies; ensuring fair allocation of backbone funding across the CATs; facilitating CATs peer learning, strategic planning, and sustainability planning; and ensuring documentation of CATs' efforts as part of the AAIMM evaluation. The Board of Commissioners approved an additional amendment in May 2023 to extend First 5 LA's Strategic Partnership by one year and provide an additional \$450,000 in funding (for a project total of \$1,150,000).

RATIONALE FOR AMENDMENT:

Overview

The proposed amendment seeks to (1) extend First 5 LA's Strategic Partnership with THE PARTNERSHIP for one additional year through June 30, 2025, and (2) provide \$450,000 in additional funding to support AAIMM Village Fund and CATs backbone support during this year (for a project total of \$1,600,000).

Cost Justification and Reason for Extension

The proposed amendment would continue funding THE PARTNERSHIP at the same level as FY23-24 (\$450,000), including:

- \$375,000 contributing to CATs backbones and capacity building, with the goal that each CAT reaches a baseline threshold of funding when combined with other sources. For FY22-23 and 23-24, there were two other funders contributing to CATs backbone support: Baby Futures Fund (contributing \$25,000 per year to Antelope Valley), and Reissa Foundation (contributing \$75,000 per year to South LA/South Bay). Discussions are currently underway with these two funders and others regarding funding for all CATs backbone and capacity building for FY24-25.
- \$75,000 contributing to the Village Fund pooled fund

This budget was developed based on discussions with AAIMM leadership and THE PARTNERSHIP, which determined that each CAT serving one SPA should have a threshold of \$100,000 in backbone funding, while South LA/South Bay (which serves two SPAs), should have \$150,000. Prior to establishing these thresholds, CATs had backbone funding ranging from \$0 to \$75,000, and found that \$75,000 was insufficient support for the ambitious work CATs seek to do, resulting in backbone staff turnover. Since establishing these thresholds there has been no turnover in backbone support agencies.

Contractor Performance & Progress to Date

THE PARTNERSHIP has continued to perform highly, achieving all First 5 LA requirements while working closely with AAIMM leadership to support sustainability of the entire initiative. Key accomplishments over the past year are presented below:

Community Action Teams (CATs)

- Implementing the AAIMM Strategic Plan: Following the completion of AAIMM's strategic plan in June 2023 by Coachman Moore & Associates (CMA), CATs participated in extensive meetings to socialize the plan & prepare for implementation. As part of this effort, CATs were also tasked with developing local action plans; this work is ongoing.
- Restructuring to Include CATs Backbone as AAIMM Core Infrastructure: A core recommendation of the AAIMM strategic plan was that the initiative restructure to support greater sustainability and power-sharing with community. The past year has focused on planning what this restructure will look like, with a key result being that CATs backbone will shift to be included in AAIMM's "core infrastructure budget." The intention of this change is to recognize CATs' central role in the AAIMM initiative and facilitate longer-term backbone funding.
- Growing as Regional Navigation & Community Hubs: CATs have focused on strengthening their role as a source of service navigation & emotional support for Black birthing families, through activities such as building local resource directories of culturally affirming services, initiating community needs assessments, and continuing to "grow the village" through outreach, community engagement and programs, with CAT networks including approximately 1,867 individuals as of FY23-24.
- Maintaining & Growing Organizational Infrastructure: All four backbone organizations have continued ensuring the CATs' work moves forward by maintaining regular planning meetings and maintaining or establishing new work groups on topics such as community outreach & engagement, fund development, healthcare provider engagement, and mental health.
- Capacity Building & Professional Development: Guided by input from CAT leads, several joint learning opportunities have been offered to support CATs' continued growth. These include the following trainings: Collective Impact Forum, Leading Effective Collaboration/ Facilitation, Community Engagement, Fast Pitch, and Maternal Mental Health Now.
- Region-Specific Milestones: CATs backbone organizations have been instrumental in achieving both countywide & regionally-specific progress. As newer CATs, Santa Clarita/San Fernando and San Gabriel Valley focused particularly on building up partnerships, relationships, and organizational infrastructure. As more established CATs, Antelope Valley and South LA/South Bay focused on more robust ongoing community engagement, systems change, and institutional partnerships. Examples of regionally-specific milestones in the past year are listed below:
 - Antelope Valley: Opened the Antelope Valley Maternal Wellness Home in May 2023 in partnership with the City of Lancaster as a perinatal services hub for Black birthing families; built a database of services provided by AAIMM partners; raised a combined \$530,000 to support local Black-led organizations (BLOs) in scaling the CAT agencies' collective ability to identify and serve more birthing families; supported development of an Equity Audit Tool for non-BLOs to ensure anti-blackness attitudes/behaviors do not prevent Black families from receiving services.
 - Santa Clarita/San Fernando: Developed & collected ongoing regional community surveys to guide priority setting; based on surveys, identified hospital engagement and breastfeeding/postpartum support as 2024 priorities; selected 3 priority hospitals and initiated engagement with the first hospital, UCLA-Olive View.
 - San Gabriel Valley: Continued focus on partnership-building to help strengthen the regional network of services & supports available to Black families, including culturally affirming prenatal, maternal mental health, and fatherhood groups.
 - South LA/South Bay: Continued to support Black birthing families in the region by providing fatherhood support groups and helping connect families to supports such as AAIMM doula services and more; continued growing the CAT & overall AAIMM village by supporting or facilitating 11 community events; Collaborated with AAIMM and First 5 LA communications teams to spotlight doula and fatherhood programs.

Village Fund

- **Grantmaking:** Graduated the first cohort of Village Fund grantees and led an inclusive selection process to select and launch a fourth cohort of grantees. Currently there are three active cohorts (2-4), with 28 total individuals/organizations funded to date.
 - Data Snapshot: UCLA's AAIMM evaluation found that Village Fund cohorts 1-2 supported 3,627 families through in-person events, and reached more than 47,200 families through digital engagement.¹
- **Capacity Building:** Provided ongoing support to grantees through quarterly peer learning convenings.
 - Data Snapshot: A survey of cohorts 1-2 found that 80% of grantees increased their understanding of Black infant and maternal health disparities through Village Fund learning convenings; 65% reported expanding the type and quantity of services they offered following sessions; 67% reported collaborating with other Village Fund grantees; and 73% reported working with other organizations in the AAIMM network.
- **Fundraising:** THE PARTNERSHIP has continued to actively fundraise to grow the Village Fund, raising a total of \$679,500 dollars from other funders in FY22-23 (F5LA contributed \$100,000).¹

Proposed Work & Outcomes for FY24-25:

In FY24-25, THE PARTNERSHIP will complete the following anticipated activities and milestones:

- Community Action Teams (CATs):
 - Partner with LA County AAIMM leadership to implement the AAIMM restructure as it pertains to transitioning CATs backbone to AAIMM core infrastructure;
 - Continue managing CATs backbone support contracts;
 - Continue collaborating with the CATs and AAIMM leadership to identify & provide relevant capacity-building opportunities;
 - Continue joint sustainability efforts with AAIMM DPH leadership and First 5 LA, with the goal of securing and/or facilitating contributions for CATs backbone from 2-3 additional funders;
 - Establish shared metrics and data collection processes.
- Village Fund:
 - Continue to manage the AAIMM innovation pooled fund;
 - Recruit & select a 5th cohort of Village Fund cohort using inclusive selection processes;
 - Provide ongoing support to Village Fund cohorts 2-4 through quarterly peer learning convenings.

AAIMM Sustainability Planning

In addition to CATs- and Village Fund-specific achievements, THE PARTNERSHIP has continued to play an instrumental role in furthering the sustainability of the overall AAIMM initiative through joint sustainability planning with LACDPH and First 5 LA, and funder engagement. Following months of internal planning, a funders briefing was co-hosted by THE PARTNERSHIP, First 5 LA and LACDPH on February 14, 2024, with representatives from 20 funding organizations in attendance. The briefing was intended to bring more funders into the overall AAIMM sustainability conversation, emphasizing the importance of investing in core infrastructure (including CATs backbone) in addition to programs. Follow-up engagement will be ongoing throughout the spring with the intention of securing new funding commitments.

Pursuant to the Procurement Policy, Strategic Partners greater than \$150,000 must be presented to the Board for approval. Staff is requesting an amendment of a Strategic Partnership in the Amount of \$450,000 for a Total Project Cost of \$1,600,000 to comply with this policy.

¹ From Village Fund supplemental expenditure report, submitted January 2024.

GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES #5 AND #6 (SUSTAINABILITY AND LEVERAGING):

Sustainability Plan

THE PARTNERSHIP, First 5 LA staff, and AAIMM leadership will continue working collaboratively to support the sustainability of AAIMM CATs backbone support and broader AAIMM Innovation Fund using several approaches, including ongoing fund development led by THE PARTNERSHIP, and collaborative sustainability planning with the CATs. This will include ongoing infrastructure-building related to funding (e.g., developing processes/workflows, templates, trainings) and relationship-building with other funders. Additionally, AAIMM will begin transitioning to their new structure, with CATs backbone included within the “core infrastructure” budget. Long term, the intention is that by creating this comprehensive core infrastructure budget, AAIMM will be better set up to approach and secure support from multiple funders for all infrastructure components, including CATs backbones.

Leveraged Resources

For CATs backbone, THE PARTNERSHIP has previously secured contributions from the Reissa Foundation (for South LA/South Bay) and Baby Futures Fund (for Antelope Valley), and is working to secure continued funding in FY24-25. All CATs have ongoing efforts to secure new funding streams, and continue to leverage LACDPH staff support. Moving forward, THE PARTNERSHIP will continue to cultivate relationships with current and new funders to support sustainability of the AAIMM Innovation Fund and CATs backbone.

For the Village Fund (Community Grantmaking), THE PARTNERSHIP has successfully grown the total pooled fund to include contributions from many funders, a full list of which can be found at <https://villagefundla.org/>. In FY22-23, First 5 LA contributed \$100,000 to the Village Fund and THE PARTNERSHIP was able to successfully leverage \$679,500 from 15 other funders, with the largest contributions coming from California Healthcare Foundation (\$187,500), the LA County Department of Public Health Perinatal Equity Initiative (\$130,000), Hilton Foundation (\$100,000), and The California Endowment (\$87,500).

NEXT STEPS

Staff anticipates returning to the Board for action at the May 9, 2024, Board of Commissioners meeting to amend this Strategic Partnership in the amount of \$450,000 for a total project cost of \$1,600,000 through June 30, 2025, and seek authority to execute a contract renewal.



AFRICAN AMERICAN INFANT
AND MATERNAL MORTALITY
PREVENTION INITIATIVE

BlackInfantsAndFamilies.org



first 5 la

Giving kids the best start

Anchoring in Community Wisdom for Lasting Impact

African American Infant and Maternal
Mortality Prevention Initiative
April 25, 2024

Adjoa Jones, Director of AAIMM Prevention Initiative Programs

with MCAH, Department of Public Health

Dr. Melissa Franklin, Director of Maternal, Child and Adolescent
Health, Department of Public Health

Tara Ficek, Director
Health Systems, First 5 LA



Presentation Objectives

- Showcase AAIMM progress and learning
- Highlight milestones and learnings for AAIMM Community Action Teams (CATs) and Village Fund
- Provide context for proposed additional year of funding for CATs backbone and Village Fund
- Discuss future opportunities and First 5 LA's role in support of AAIMM

AAIMM Values



**RACISM
IS THE
ROOT CAUSE**



**BLACK WOMEN
UP FRONT
AND LEADING**



**FOSTERING
EQUITY WHILE
FIGHTING
INEQUITY**

FOR BLACK WOMEN
OF ALL SOCIO-ECONOMIC
BACKGROUNDS

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

ANTI-RACISM,
ANTI-IMPLICIT BIAS



**PIECES OF
THE PUZZLE**

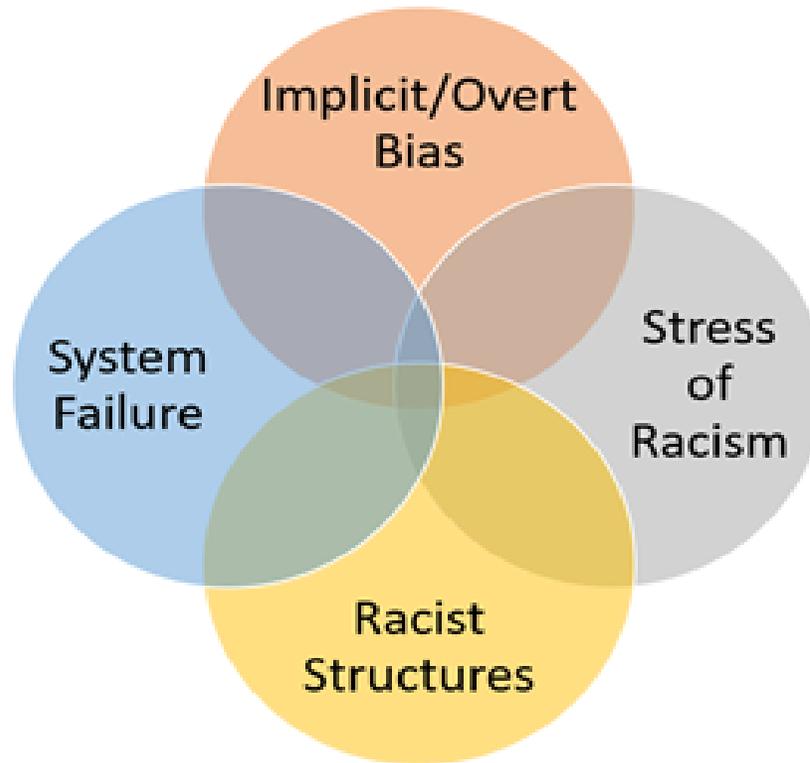
EVERYONE
HAS A ROLE



**NO BLAME
GAME**

BIRTH OUTCOMES
ARE A RESULT
OF SYSTEMIC ISSUES,
NOT AN INDIVIDUAL
WOMAN'S CHOICES

The Crisis and Root Causes



First 5 LA's AAIMM Investments in Context

AAIMM Component	Partially Funded by First 5 LA	Not Funded By First 5 LA
Core Infrastructure & Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAIMM Management & Steering (in-kind from F5LA staff) • Community Action Teams (CATs) backbone • Communications • Strategic Planning • Evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAIMM Management & Steering (in-kind support from non-F5LA agencies) • Steering Committee Stipends • Policy & Advocacy/ MotherBoard
Programs & Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community grantmaking (Village Fund) • Hospital Engagement (Cherished Futures) • CATS professional development/ capacity building opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doula Program • Group Prenatal Care & wraparound supports • Black Maternal Health Center of Excellence maternity homes • Fatherhood programs • Professional development
AAIMM-Adjacent Efforts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guaranteed Income • Medi-Cal Doula Hub

FIRST 5 LA TOTAL INVESTMENT SINCE 2020: \$3,523,267

CUMULATIVE TOTAL FUNDING SINCE 2018 (INCLUDES F5LA): \$26,504,000



AAIMM Milestones & Achievements



Policy & Advocacy Critical Milestones

- Launching policy/advocacy group: the **MotherBoard**
- Medi-Cal **Doula Hub**: Participating in statewide doula benefit conversations
- **Cherished Futures** team pivoting to launch statewide **Coalition for Black Birth Justice**
- **Guaranteed Basic Income**: Helped apply for, gather input on/design & launch statewide GBI project: <https://abundantbirthproject.org/>



AAIMM Program Spotlight

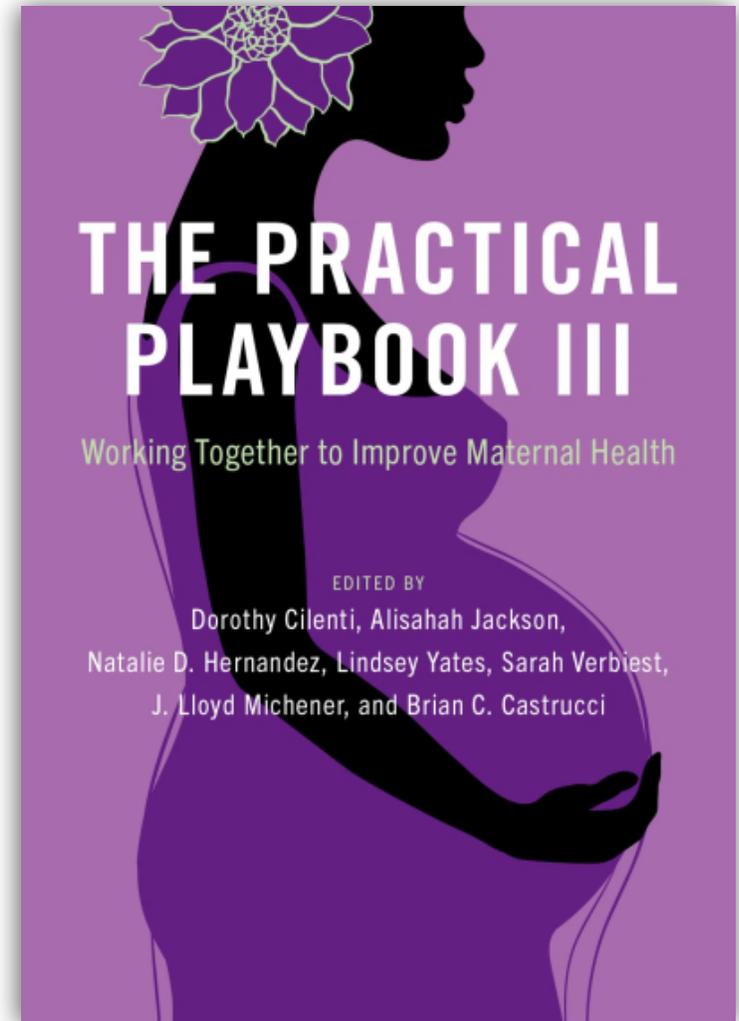
Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI)

- The AAIMM GBI program is open and accepting applications to support those women/birthing folks at greatest risk during their pregnancy/birthing journey.
- Please refer folks to the program.
- \$807/ month for 18 months
<https://abundantbirthproject.org/>



Other Major Milestones

- **Hospital Quality Improvement (Cherished Futures):** Second hospital cohort completed implementation plans to improve quality of care & health outcomes for Black birthing families; graduated 8 hospitals total
- **National Recognition: Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Award**
- **Black Maternal Health Week Highlights**
- **AAIMM is a published Author!** *The Practical Playbook III: Working Together to Improve Maternal Health*



AAIMM Strategic Planning and Restructuring

Strategic Planning

Year 1 Implementation Plan Progress

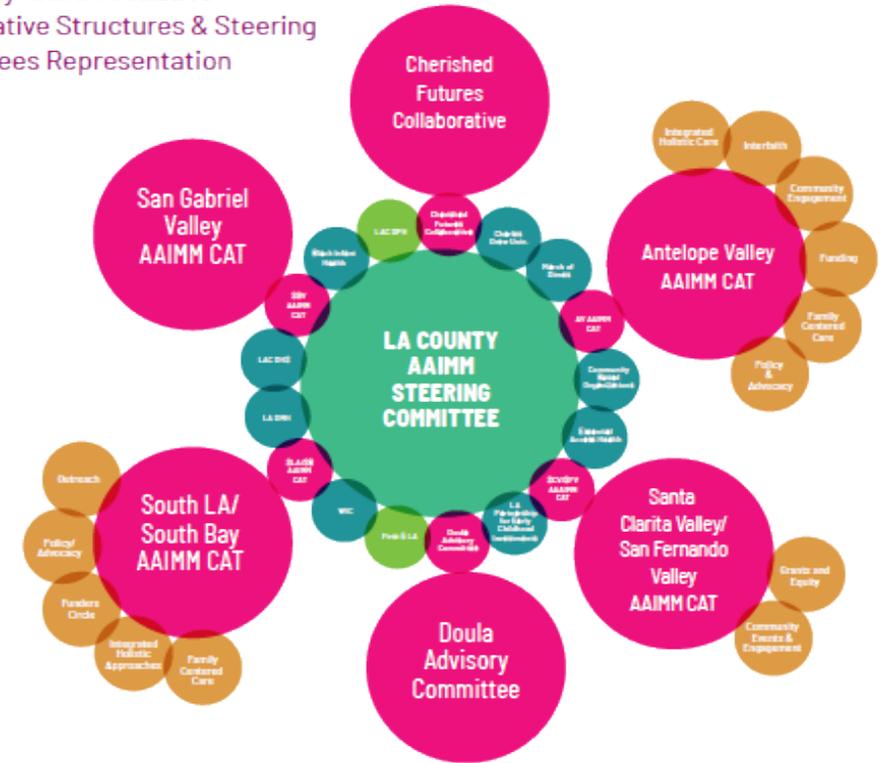
- Communications
- Fatherhood Engagement
- Policy and advocacy

Structural Planning

- AAIMM structure is evolving
- AAIMM management expanding to “3-legged stool” (DPH, **First 5 LA**, CBO backbone)
- New structure seeks to:
 - Shift power back to community
 - Support sustainability



LA County AAIMM Initiative
Collaborative Structures & Steering
Committees Representation



AAIMM Early Impact

Positive Impacts On Families¹:

- Stress reduction
- Self-advocacy and empowerment from doula clients
- Referrals to other services and providers
- Preparedness for labor and delivery
- Breastfeeding/pumping
- Social media engagement



AAIMM Early Impact

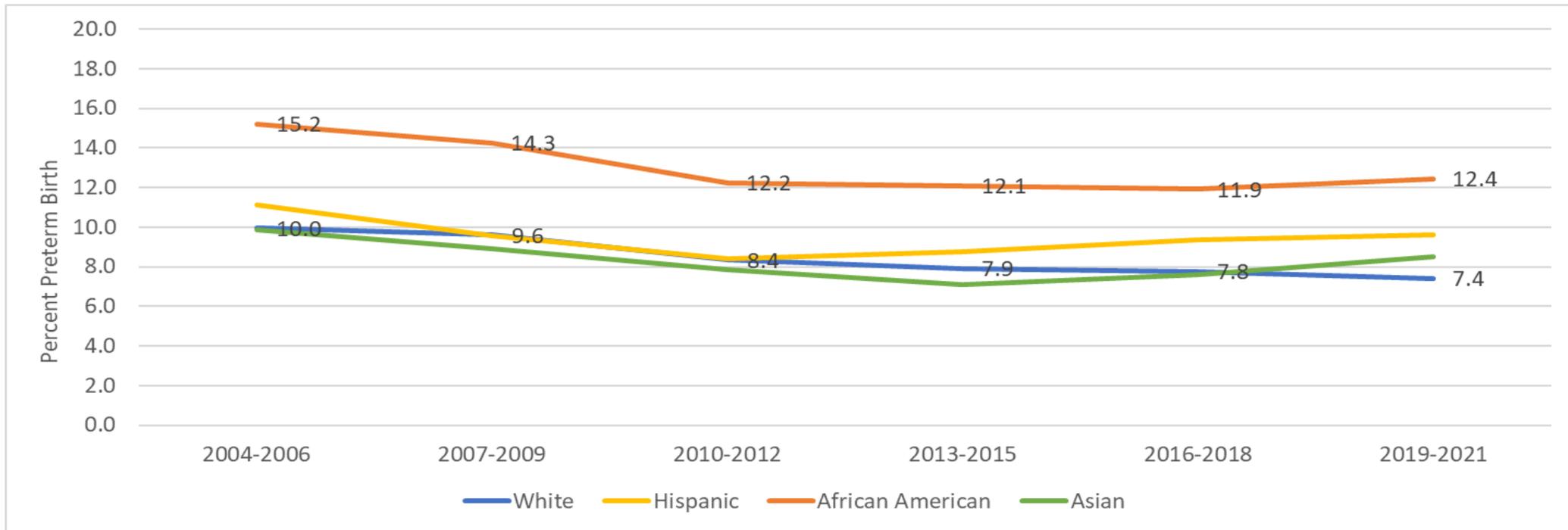
Positive Impacts on Systems:

- Hospital practice changes to:
 - Routinely analyze disaggregated clinical data to pinpoint & address disparities
 - Reduce disparities in treatment and promote positive birth experiences
 - Partner more with community
 - Build more robust relationships between hospitals and traditional birth workers (doulas, midwives, CLEs, etc.)
- Helping shape new Medi-Cal doula benefit to ensure fair reimbursement rates
- Growing the Black birth workforce & safe and holistic birth spaces



Contextualizing Birth Equity Work

Percent Preterm Births (17-36 weeks) by Mothers' Race, 3-Year Averages, Los Angeles County 2004-2021¹⁻²



1. Notes: Preterm births are defined as births occurring from 17-36 weeks gestation. Gestational age calculated based on first date of last menstrual period for 2004-2007 and based on obstetrical estimation for 2008-2021. Data not shown for Native American, Pacific Islander, Other and Unknown races. Three-year averages used to account for random annual rate fluctuations.

2. Data Source: 2004-2017 California Department of Public Health, Birth Statistical Master File. 2018 -2021 data downloaded from the Vital Record Business Intelligence System (VRBIS).

Contextualizing Birth Equity Work

Birth equity works takes years to have an impact.

Real-World Example: B'More for Healthy Babies

- Initiated in 2009 "to reduce infant mortality in Baltimore City through policy change, service improvements, community mobilization, and behavior change." ¹
- **15 years of progress:**
 - From 2009 to 2019, the infant mortality rate declined from 13.5 to 8.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, driven by a 7.1-point decrease (per 1,000 live births) in the Black infant mortality rate²
 - Key factors for success: applying a racial equity lens, centering lived experience, and sustained leadership, partnership, and trust ²
 - The work continues today, focused on sustainability



1. Baltimore City Health Department. (2024). B'More for Healthy Babies. Available at <https://health.baltimorecity.gov/maternal-and-child-health/b-more-for-healthy-babies>

2. Johnson & Thiesse. (2023). B'more for Healthy Babies: The Story Behind the Data. Abell Foundation. Available at https://abell.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2022_Abell-Foundation_BHB-Impact-Study_Digital.pdf.

& expanding efforts to maximize impact

Grounding in Community: AAIMM Village Fund and Community Action Teams



CATs & Village Fund Overview

AAIMM Community Action Teams (CATs):

- Regional collaboratives co-led by community & DPH
- Engage community on both countywide & regional AAIMM strategies
- Antelope Valley, South LA/South Bay, San Fernando/Santa Clarita Valleys, and San Gabriel Valley

Village Fund/Community Grantmaking:

- Investing in community-driven, innovative strategies to further AAIMM goals
- Small grants ranging from \$5,500 to \$33,000

First 5 LA's Investment:

- 3-year strategic partnership with California Community Foundation (CCF), fiscal sponsor for LA Partnership for Early Child Investment (LA Partnership)
- Supports CATs capacity building & advocacy and Village Fund
- Strategic Partnership amendments in July 2022 & June 2023

CATs Milestones for Prior Year: Overarching Achievements

- **Implementing the AAIMM Strategic Plan:** Developing local action plans aligned with countywide strategic plan and regional needs
- **Growing as Regional Navigation & Community Hubs:** Strengthening navigation & community hub role to connect Black families with trusted resources
- **Continuing to Build Organizational Infrastructure:** Moving the work forward through planning teams, work groups, community organizing, and including those with lived experience
- **Capacity Building & Professional Development:** Trainings to support continued organizational development (e.g. on facilitation, collective impact, maternal mental health, fundraising)



CATs Milestones for Prior Year: Regional Systems Change Spotlight

South LA/South Bay:

- Ongoing direct supports to Black birthing families (e.g. fatherhood groups, doula referrals, breast/chestfeeding campaign, immediate crisis response to families after maternal health deaths)
- Community events & storytelling



Antelope Valley:

- Maternal Wellness Home in partnership w/CDU BMHCE (opened May 2023)
- Navigation support (directory of partner-provided services, equity audit tool)
- Backbone helping build fundraising capacity across member orgs



CATs Milestones for Prior Year: Regional Systems Change Spotlight

San Fernando/Santa Clarita Valleys:

- Community maternal health surveys
- Connecting families across disparate geography
- Hospital engagement & breastfeeding/postpartum support

San Gabriel Valley:

- Partnership-building to strengthen prenatal, fatherhood, & maternal mental health supports
- Hospital Engagement workgroup and will begin to work w/Huntington Hospital



Village Fund Critical Milestones

- **Grantmaking:**
 - Graduated first Village Fund cohort
 - Launched fourth cohort (28 grantees funded to date)
 - Data Snapshot: From 2021-22, cohorts 1-2 supported ~3,627 families in-person and reached ~47,200 through digital engagement¹
- **Capacity-Building**
 - Held quarterly peer learning convenings for cohorts 2-4
 - Data Snapshot: A survey of cohorts 1-2 about learning convenings found that...²

80%

increased understanding of Black infant & maternal health disparities

65%

expanded the type/quantity of services offered

67%

Collaborated with other Village Fund grantees

73%

Collaborated with other AAIMM partners



1. UCLA AAIMM Evaluation report, page 112, submitted June 2023.

2. LA Partnership Programmatic Brief, submitted July 2023 (survey conducted by LA Partnership)

Fundraising & Sustainability

- **LA Partnership's Role** in supporting sustainability
 - Village Fund: Raised \$679,600 non-F5LA funds in FY22-23 through ongoing funder engagement and advocacy
 - CATs: Focus on funder engagement, smaller grant opportunities, donations, infrastructure-building, and advocacy
- **Key Prior Year Activities:**
 - AV Funder Site Visit & subsequent fundraising
 - Developed tools to more rapidly pursue grants
 - Co-led funder briefing on 2/14/24 with DPH & F5LA
 - In progress:
 - Developing grant-writing training & coaching for all CATs
 - Documenting CATs impact



CATs & Village Fund Key Learnings

- **Community is critical** to impacting birth disparities
- **Backbone support is essential** for systems change, infrastructure-building, and real-time response to community priorities
- **Internal work takes time**, but is necessary to maximize impact (e.g. strategic planning, building/transforming organizational infrastructure)
- **Peer learning opportunities provide vital spaces** for organizations to learn, collaborate, and grow their birth equity work across LA County
- **Investing in community wisdom and core infrastructure is uncommon and essential**, opening access to funding for smaller, Black-led organizations to grow their birth equity work
- **Sustainability is a team effort**, with First 5 LA playing an active role in supporting our partners to sustain long term



What's on the Horizon for FY24-25

Community Action Teams (CATs):

- Year 1 of AAIMM strategic plan & local action plan implementation
- Joint sustainability planning with LA Partnership, LAC DPH and First 5 LA
- Ongoing relevant capacity building opportunities

Village Fund:

- Provide ongoing support to cohorts 2-4 through quarterly peer learning convenings
- Recruit & select 5th grantee cohort using equity-centered selection processes
- Continue managing AAIMM Innovation pooled fund



Next Steps

- **Proposed Amendment for June Commission Meeting (Action):**
 - Extend end date by 1 year to June 2025
 - Amend total project budget, authorize \$450,000 for FY24-25
- **Goal:** Implement AAIMM strategic plan and bring on additional funders to support AAIMM core infrastructure, including CATs backbone; minimize disruption in services during F5LA transition year



Alignment and Discussion



Alignment with First 5 LA 2024-2029 Strategic Plan

Goal 1 Objective 1: Reduce the annual number of deaths of children under 1 year old per 1,000 live births in LA County.



AAIMM promotes healthy and joyous births for Black families in LA County.

Goal 3 Objective 3: Increase the annual % of children birth through age 5 in LA County receiving culturally affirming services and supports.



AAIMM centers Black birthing people and families in all aspects of leadership, programs, and services (doulas, Village Funds grantees, preconception education, fatherhood engagement)

Goal 2 Objective 1: Increase the annual % of expecting and/or new mothers displaying signs/symptoms of prenatal or postpartum depression who receive supports/services to support mother's relationship/attachment with newly born child.



AAIMM's Village Fund supports stress reduction through community grant-making for local, culturally affirming preventive services & supports

AAIMM Emerging Opportunities

- **Staying Anchored in Community:**
 - Continue investing in AAIMM core infrastructure
 - Support CATs staff, community navigators, and special projects
- **Strengthening Perinatal Supports:**
 - Maternal mental health, including provider education, awareness & partnership-building
 - Healthcare System Advocacy & Quality (e.g. robust statewide birth equity hospital designation, healthcare quality improvement advocacy efforts)
 - Midwifery and birth centers
 - Promoting policies that support women and girls of color
- **Responding in Times of Crisis:** AAIMM Network compassion response to unexpected pregnancy/birthing crises
- **Supporting Basic Needs for Birthing Families:**
 - Housing: community-informed plan, brick & mortar, rent subsidies
 - Building on learnings from Abundant Births guaranteed basic income (GBI) pilot

AAIMM Overall Key Takeaways

Learnings:

- 5 years is not enough to uproot systemic racism – this work takes time
- Infrastructure, partnerships, early impact has been established; growing and evolving the work requires continued and expanded investment
- Ongoing connection and co-ownership with community is essential



Questions & Discussion

Based on the learnings shared, what do you see as potential opportunities to further birth equity going forward?

Given our Strategic Plan roles (convenor, connector, thought partner and advocate) where can we add the most value?





First 5 LA Programmatic Sustainability Strategies

John Wagner, Executive Vice President
Diana Careaga, Director, Family Supports

Special Board/Program and
Planning Committee Meeting

April 25th, 2024



PRESENTATION GOALS

- Share key explorations, successes, and considerations for F5LA's programmatic investments in the context of fiscal reality
- Focus on sustainability strategies for home visiting, the largest direct service investment, and other areas



Sustainability Opportunities: Context Setting

SUSTAINABILITY OPPORTUNITIES: FIRST 5 LA CONTEXT

First 5 LA Sustainability Efforts toward Our Mission

Maximize First 5 LA Assets

Alternative Revenue Strategies

Operations

- Leasing portion of building
- Maximizing staff capabilities and current technology
- Cost efficiency
- Maximizing fund balance investments

Investment Strategy

- Maximizing current investments with a return-on-investment approach integrated with exit strategies or leveraging external funding streams (programs)

Policy Advocacy

- Lead and support monitoring of local, state, and federal policies

Business Models

- Assessing use of different business models (e.g., fiscal intermediary, etc.)

Collective Impact

- Partnering with other organizations to pool funding

SUSTAINABILITY OPPORTUNITIES: BROADER CONTEXT

- There is an increasing focus at the local, state, and federal levels on shifting funding streams further upstream toward primary prevention and promotion of child and family well-being.
- Examples include:
 - The LA County Prevention and Promotion Systems Governing Committee (PPSGC) has chosen children 0-5 as a population of focus
 - The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) allows jurisdictions to shift funding from children in out-of-home care to those at-risk of entering the child welfare system
 - The State introduced FFPS Block Grant funding to allow funding for programming not allowable under the federal FFPSA
 - The State's Medicaid program (Medi-Cal) has introduced efforts to transform the public healthcare system and focus more on social determinants of health and equity

SUSTAINABILITY OPPORTUNITIES: FFPSA AND MEDI-CAL

FFPSA and Medi-Cal present opportunities to sustain multiple F5LA programmatic areas. They should be considered together because they:

- Are federal entitlement programs
- Can pay for some of the same things, but not at the same time (payor of last resort)
- Require a state/local match to draw down federal funds (e.g., F5LA funding)
- Are reimbursement-based funding streams → upfront/grant funding is still needed
- Only reimburse for 50% of the cost of services → other funding will still be needed
- Require additional infrastructure for organizations to draw down funding

SUSTAINABILITY OPPORTUNITIES: WORK TO DATE

- F5LA has conducted extensive exploration of these strategies to offset and/or reduce F5LA funds across programmatic areas, which involves continued work with County partners.
- Examples include:
 - Medi-Cal doula benefit could help sustain DPH AAIMM doula programming
 - FFPS pilots testing feasibility of drawing down federal FFPSA funding and creating referral pathways for eligible children to eligible programming (e.g., LAUSD to home visiting)
 - Help Me Grow staff could qualify as Community Health Workers and bill Medi-Cal under new benefit

SUSTAINABILITY OPPORTUNITIES: SUCCESSES TO DATE

Examples of current successes to date:

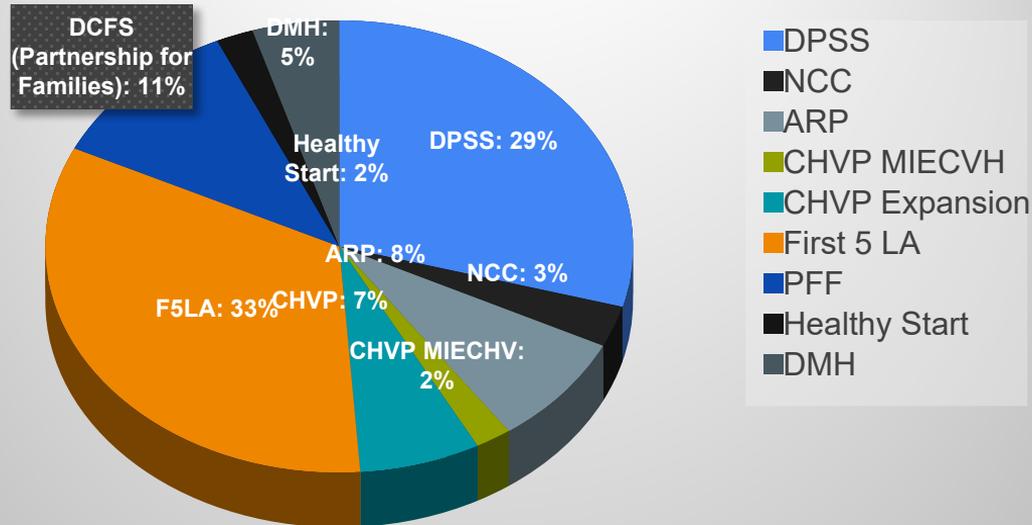
- Department of Mental Health's Prevention and Early Intervention funds for Home Visiting
- Blue Shield Promise Health funding for home visiting
- System partners (OCP, DPH) committing to continuing to fund Help Me Grow after F5LA funding ends
- CalWORKs funding for home visiting based on LA County pilot with DPSS



Home Visiting Deep Dive: Sustainability Considerations

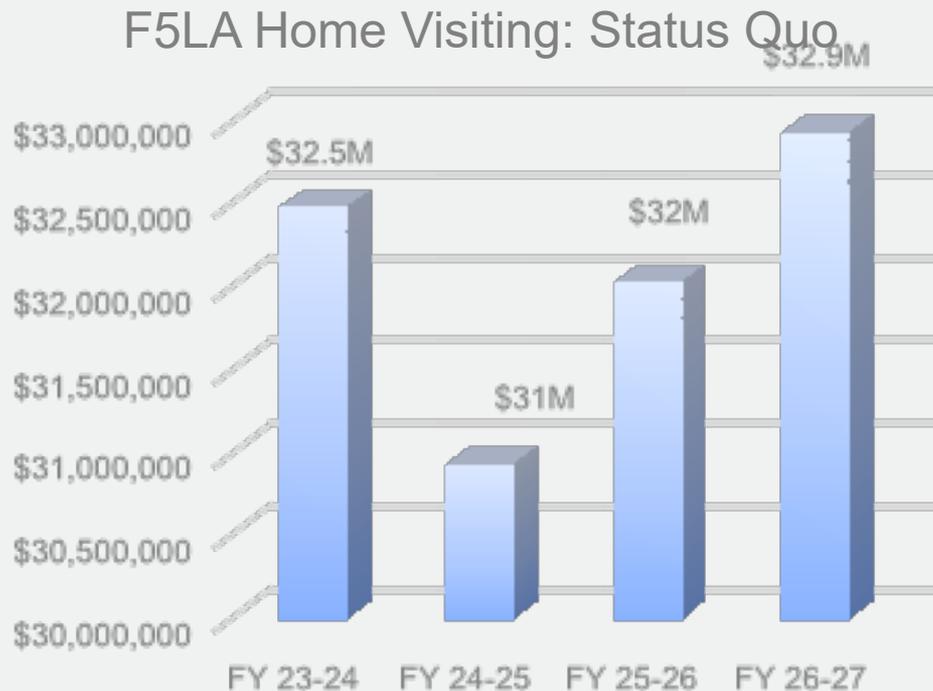
OVERVIEW: LA COUNTY HOME VISITING

Home Visiting Services by Funding Stream



- F5LA used to be the largest home visiting funder in LA County but has supported and advocated for other funding sources, and now represents only 1/3
- Total FY 23-24 Countywide Direct Home Visiting Service Investment: **\$96M**
 - F5LA: 33%
 - DPH Administered Funds: 49%
 - Other County Departments (DCFS, DMH): 16%
 - Healthy Start: 2%

OVERVIEW: F5LA HOME VISITING INVESTMENT



- Chart represents program budget for direct home visiting services only
 - Note decrease in FY 24-25 costs due to strategic reductions
 - “Status quo” indicates current approach (includes all 3 program models and workforce compensation)
- Without any offset or sustainability strategies, F5LA’s home visiting budget projected to reach \$32.9M by FY 26-27
- The status quo is NOT SUSTAINABLE

HOME VISITING SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

- Key internal staff questions in considering the future scale of F5LA's home visiting investment:
 - What is F5LA's unique contribution to the countywide system of home visiting?
 - What is attainable given what is known about current sustainability strategies and timelines and F5LA's sustainability planning?

EXPLORATION OF OPPORTUNITIES

- Fiscal Mapping Project in 2021 recommended exploration of two key opportunities:
 - Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)
 - Managed Care Plans and Medi-Cal changes



**Financing the Los Angeles
County Home Visiting System:
Recommendations for Action**

EXPLORATION OF OPPORTUNITIES

FFPSA

- State allows reimbursement for:
 - Three home visiting models, two of which F5LA funds (HFA, PAT)
 - Motivational Interviewing, which Welcome Baby providers utilize
- State definition of “imminent risk” likely to include majority of home visiting clients

Medi-Cal

- Intersections between new provider populations (e.g., Community Health Workers) and home visitors
- HV outcomes align with Medi-Cal accountability measures
- Successful implementation could require rate increases and additional infrastructure

EXPLORATION OF OPPORTUNITIES

Other options under ongoing exploration include:

- Expansion of federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program
- Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI)
- FFPS State Block Grant funding for HV sites participating in pilots
- Additional opportunities through DMH MHSA funding (pending Prop 1 implementation)



HOME VISITING SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

What is feasible? Key questions are dependent on external entities and will influence the potential sustainability strategies:

Department of Mental Health (DMH):

- Prop 1 shifts funding categories of Mental Services Health Act (MHSA); impact on DMH funds for home visiting still unclear.
- Currently under contract through FY 25-26

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA):

- FFPSA reimbursement rate unknown and launch anticipated for Fall 2026
- Motivational Interviewing rate unknown

Changes under provision of Medi-Cal Services:

- F5LA Community Health Worker Pilot project through June 2026
- Possibility of achieving higher reimbursement rate
- Continued exploration of opportunities given changes in Medi-Cal (CalAIM)

**The answers to these questions inform the scale of
F5LA home visiting with clear guardrails of our fiscal reality**

HOME VISITING SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Long-Term Planning (through Fall 2024)

- Goal is to develop plan to align scale of home visiting investment to Long Term Financial Plan starting in FY 26-27
- To reach alignment, F5LA identified 15% - 25% of F5LA annual revenue will be spent on direct services. Additional costs will need to be offset via sustainability strategies
- Planning considerations include:
 - Existing sustainability opportunities by program model
 - Availability and scope of home visiting data to inform countywide efforts via the program models
 - Geographic impact on available home visiting services at county level



Closing and Discussion

IN CLOSING...

- While programmatic investments must be reduced in light of the fiscal reality, F5LA can still achieve impact by focusing on system change, policy change, and community engagement
- Tactic development for the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan will focus on roles and activities to maximize impact. Examples could include:
 - Bridging the gap between grant-based programming and reimbursement-based programming (e.g., Medi-Cal, FFPSA)
 - Leveraging F5LA dollars for matching other funding streams or serving as a pass-through to ease administrative burden on CBOs



Questions:

- What clarifying questions do you have?
- What are important considerations in scaling down direct services to reach alignment to the long-term fiscal realities?

FIRST 5 LA

SUBJECT:

First 5 LA Equity Index

BACKGROUND

First 5 LA has begun efforts to inform the development of an equity index the organization will use to inform funding allocations. Our work in this area is in response to our fiscal context, which is one of declining revenue, and the board's emphasis on the importance of targeting our resources in ways that address racial disparities, and historic under-investment and systemic inequities in communities across L.A. County. The intention is for First 5 LA to use the index to target our resources and investments. We are approaching this work with an understanding that the index will be informed by equity indices already used in the county with a unique focus on early childhood.

DISCUSSION:

Staff will introduce the concept of an early childhood equity index to the Program and Planning Committee (PPC) at the April meeting. There will also be a high-level overview of where we are in the process including work done to date and anticipated next steps.

The discussion will gather input from PPC members regarding the kinds of indicators that should be included given the intention for the index to inform decisions about the allocation of resources aligned with the goals and objectives of our strategic plan and our commitment to racial justice.

NEXT STEPS:

Plans are to present the framework for the index this summer and continue discussions on the index's development throughout 2024.



An Early Childhood Equity Index for First 5 LA

Kimberly Hall, Director of Impact & Accountability
Program & Planning Committee

April 25, 2024

Today's conversation

Introduce the concept and rationale

Describe where we are in the process

Outline next steps

Discussion



An Early Childhood Equity Index for First 5 LA

- Well-being of young children and their families in Los Angeles County
- Composite metric that consider multiple conditions
- Identify geographic and racial disparities within Los Angeles County

Why does First 5 LA need an Equity Index?

Gaps in the Landscape:

Early Childhood

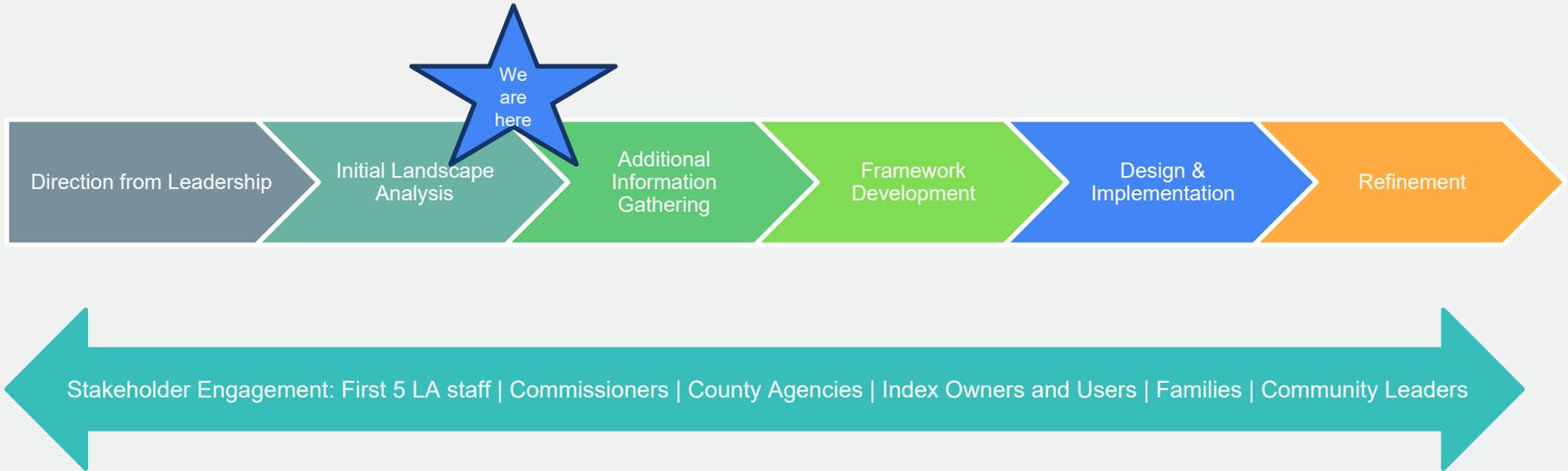
L.A. County Geographies

Strategic Plan Alignment

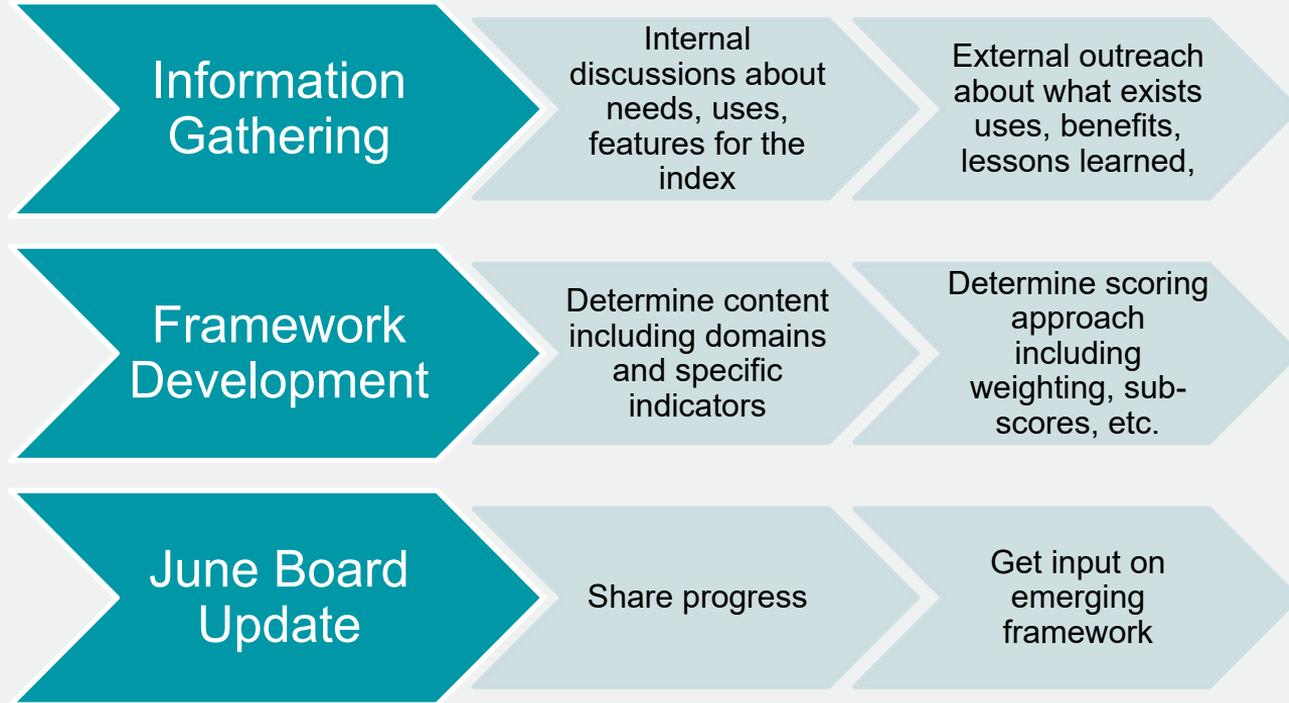
How will we use an equity index?

- To inform the allocation of **resources** to communities that experience the most significant disparities
- To target **efforts** aimed at the well-being of young children and their families in Los Angeles County

Where are we in the process?



Next Steps

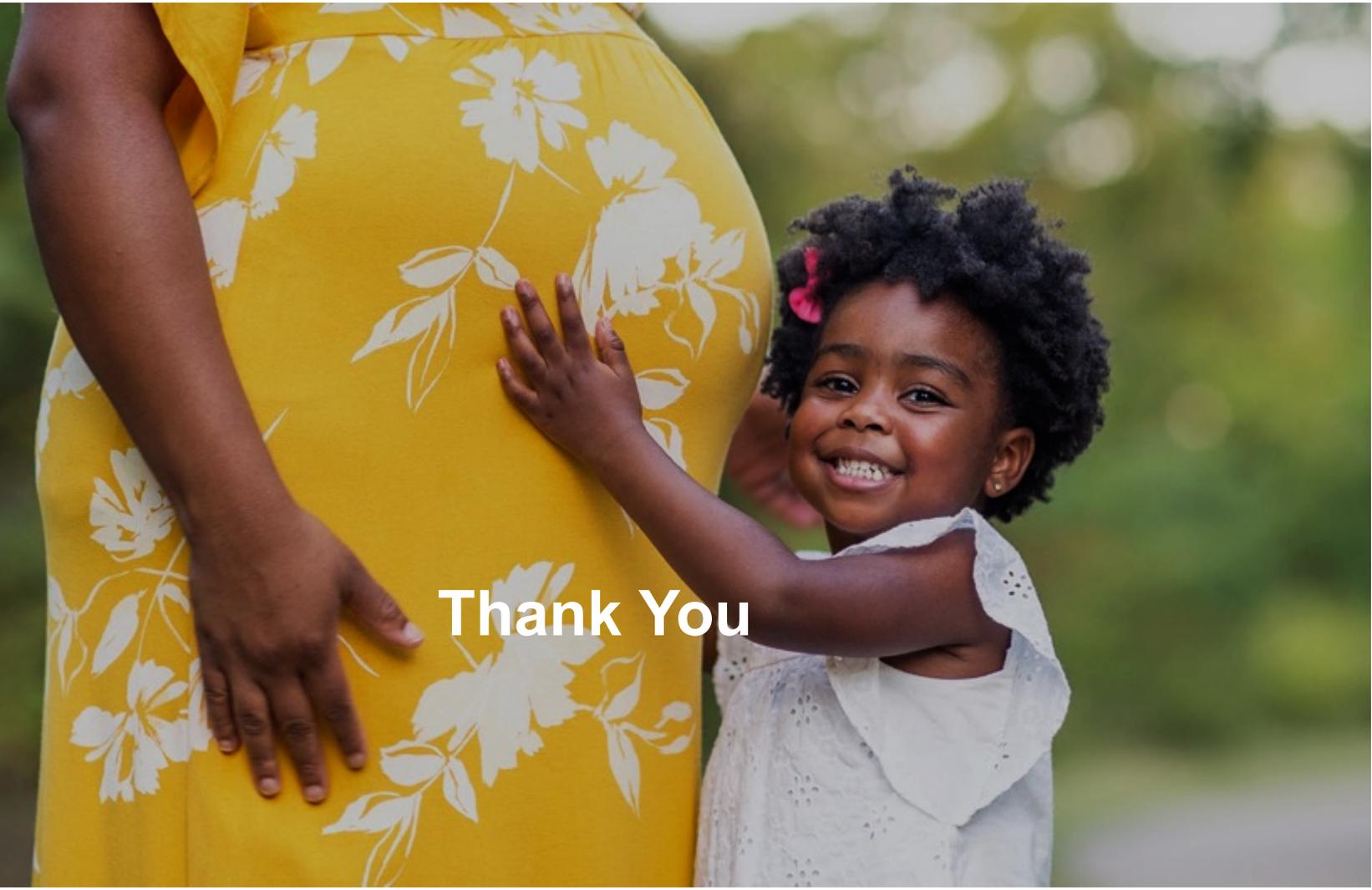




Discussion

Discussion Questions

1. What questions do you have?
2. What benefits can an equity index provide given our fiscal context?
3. What kinds of indicators should the index include given the goal of informing resource allocation decisions aligned with our strategic plan?



Thank You



2024 Advocacy Priorities

Ofelia Medina, Senior Policy Strategist
Jamie Zamora, Senior Government Affairs Strategist

Discussion Overview

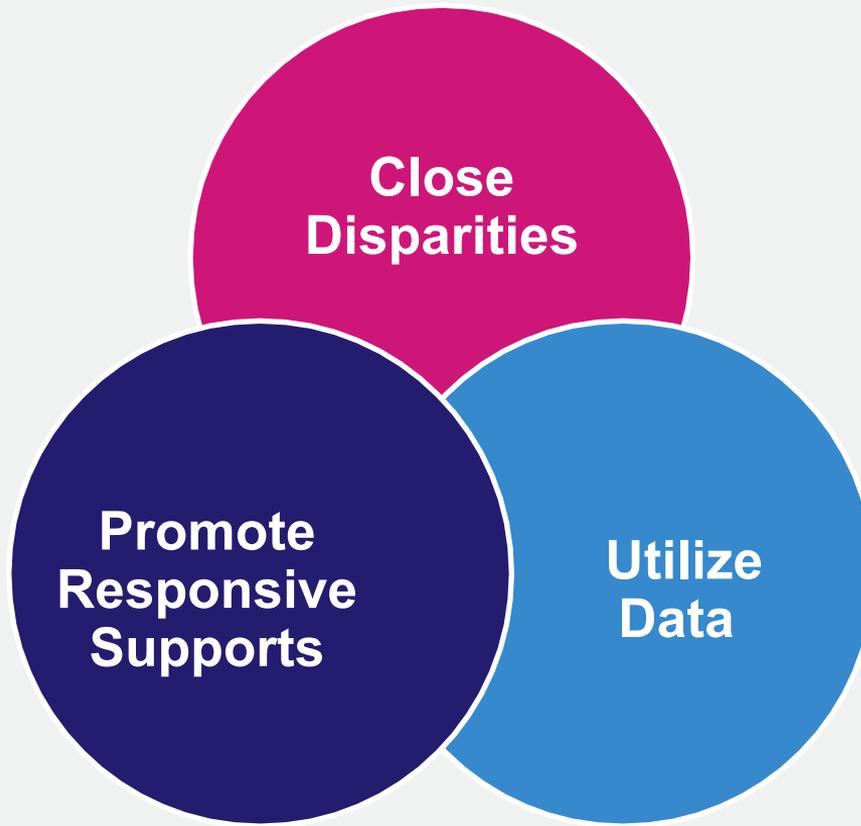
- 2024 Policy Agenda.
- Emerging State and Federal Policy Priorities.
- Government Affairs Priorities.

First 5 LA Policy Agenda: Purpose

High-level policy goals that align with and advance the 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

- Authorizes First 5 LA's policy and advocacy work, informing where First 5 LA leads, supports or does not engage on policy issues.
- Recognizes the full range of policy changes necessary to achieve desired outcomes, including budget items, legislation and administrative change.
- Guides First 5 LA public policy analysis and policy proposal development.
- Supports efforts to both advance long-term policy change and respond to short-term needs, issues and opportunities.

2024 Policy Agenda: Commitment to Equity and Community Engagement



2024 Policy Agenda: Interconnections

Promote a comprehensive system of family supports to advance positive outcomes for the whole child and whole family.

Improve systems to promote the optimal development of children through early identification and supports.

Expand access to affordable, quality early care and education.

Ensure communities have the resources and environment that support optimal development of children prenatal to age 5.

2024 Policy Context

State context

- New Assembly and Senate Leadership
- Back-to-back years of record budget deficits.
- Early actions taken; program reductions, delays, and borrowing.
- Election year; 11 new state policymakers in LA County

Federal context

- FY 2024 Appropriations passed after several Continuing Resolutions.
- FY 2025 Appropriations
- Legislative opportunities.
- Last year before a new Congress.

2024 State Priorities

Budget

- Early care and early education (ECE) Coalition asks.
- Medi-Cal Continuous Eligibility.
- CalWORKS Family Supports.

Legislative

- AB 2268 (Muratsuchi), Dual Language Learners
- AB 2319 (Wilson), Implicit Bias; implementation of SB 464 (Mitchell)
- AB 2982 (Reyes), Pre-natal – three workgroup; First 5 Association sponsored
- SB 1396 (Alvarado-Gil), CalWORKs: Home Visiting Program

Administrative

- Early learning rate reform.
- California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (Cal AIM) and the new Medi-Cal benefits implementation.
- Universal Pre-K Mixed Delivery Quality and Access Workgroup

2024 Federal Priorities

Budget

- President Biden's FY 25-26 Budget.
- FY 2025 Appropriations.

Legislative

- Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act (H.R. 7024)
- The Child Care Stabilization Act (S. 2777)
- Farm Bill negotiations.

Administrative

- Maternal and Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program expansion.

Government Affairs Priorities

Policymaker Engagement

- New LA County Delegation members
- Legislative Women's Caucus
- District Engagement
- Candidate Engagement
- Congressional Dad's Caucus

Advocacy Activities

- First 5 LA Day in Sacramento
- Partner Advocacy Days
- Congressional Advocacy

Coalition Focus

- ECE Budget Coalition/ECE Thrive LA
- Whole Child Equity Partnership
- Community Health Workers Coalition

Field Building

- First 5 Network
- Early Childhood Policy and Advocacy Fund

Questions

- What other state bills are you or your department/agency tracking?

