

WHO IS FIRST 5 SOLANO?

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission (First 5 Solano) is an agency governed by a Commission of nine members appointed by the Solano County Board of Supervisors. It receives Proposition 10 tobacco tax dollars as well as other private and public funding to:

NOW

Fund programs and services to support Solano County's youngest children (0-5) and their families.

FUTURE

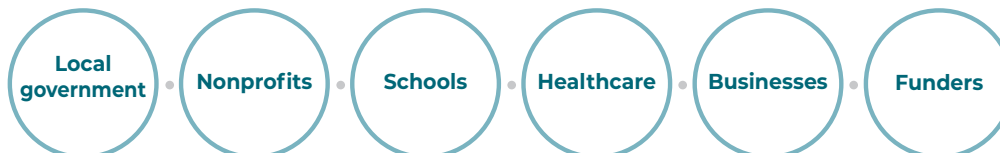
Strengthen early childhood systems to support future generations.



WHAT DOES FIRST 5 SOLANO DO?

The foundation for a child's life is laid in the first five years. Before age five, 90% of a child's brain development occurs. First 5 Solano's work is guided by research demonstrating that positive early experiences are essential for children to have later success in school, the workplace, and the community. First 5 Solano makes investments to improve the lives of children 0-5 and strengthen early childhood systems based on:

- **Data and research** on community needs, such as gaps in services and disparities in outcomes, so First 5 Solano can have the greatest impact where it is needed most.
- **The quality and potential impact** of solutions to achieve First 5 Solano's goals and promote equity in the county.
- **Leveraging and partnership opportunities;** First 5 Solano is known for its ability to spark innovative initiatives and draw in partners to make these initiatives sustainable. Partners include:



PARTNERS

MISSION:

First 5 Solano is a catalyst that strategically advances innovative, prevention-focused approaches across systems that improve the lives of young children and their families.

In partnership with the community, First 5 Solano supports efforts that contribute to its mission, vision, and goals in four priority areas:



PRIORITY AREA 1 HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



PRIORITY AREA 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT



PRIORITY AREA 3 FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION



PRIORITY AREA 4 SYSTEMS CHANGE

VISION:

All Solano County children are healthy, eager to learn, and nurtured by strong families in safe and inclusive communities

WHAT IS FIRST 5 SOLANO'S IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY?

First 5 Solano's Impact by the Numbers (FY2020/21)

OVERALL

Over **5,000**

children aged 0-5 (16% of the population) were served

\$4M

was invested in initiatives that support young children and their families

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

273

children received early childhood mental health treatment

1,583

referrals to community resources were provided to families through Help Me Grow, a centralized service access point

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

86%

of students in a short-term summer pre-K program were ready or nearly ready for kindergarten at the end of the summer, up from 49% at the start

551

children benefited from attending 39 early learning sites enrolled in a quality improvement program that made at least one change to enhance the quality of their program

FAMILY SUPPORT & PARENT EDUCATION

Nearly **100%**

of 1,693 participants in the evidence-based Triple P parent education program demonstrated improvements in their parenting knowledge and skills

1,156

children and parents/caregivers participated in enrichment classes, events, and activities at the Vallejo First 5 Center

SYSTEMS CHANGE

\$2M

earmark in the state budget was received for a new First 5 Center in Fairfield

10

state policy issues were advocated for, including SB395, which successfully passed and will impose a 12.5% tax on vape products; 15% of the revenue will go to First 5 agencies

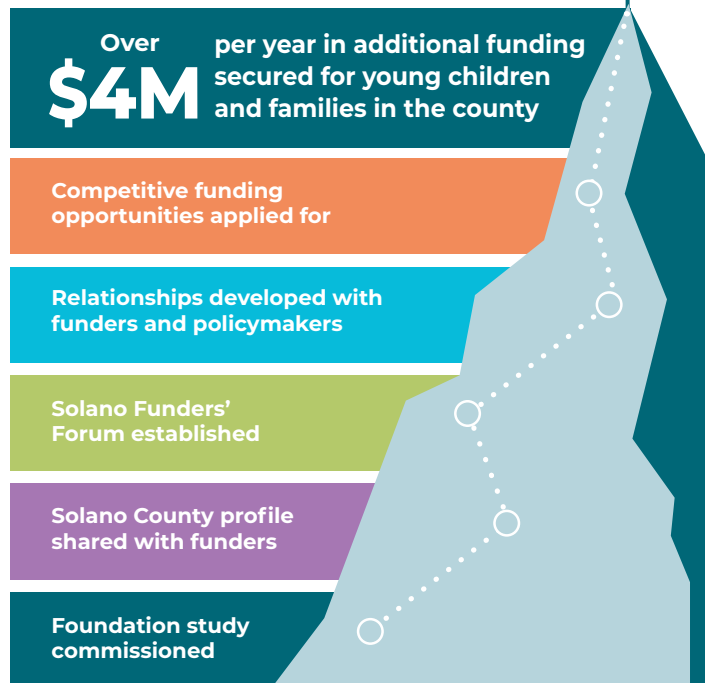
\$1M

in CARES Act funding was received to support child care and other providers during the pandemic

First 5 Solano's success in achieving outcomes for young children and families is the result of years of effort by First 5 Solano Commissioners and staff to research the greatest needs of children 0-5 and identify evidence-informed solutions to address those challenges. For example, First 5 Solano's success in attracting funding for early childhood began with sponsoring a foundation study in 2016 that found Solano County is significantly underfunded relative to all other counties in the Bay Area despite having the highest family poverty rate. It responded to the recommendations in the report by raising Solano County's profile with government and foundation funders; connecting funders with Solano-based agencies through the Solano Funders' Forum; developing relationships with funders and policymakers; and applying for competitive funding opportunities that align with First 5 Solano's mission. As a result, **Solano now attracts over \$4 million in additional funding for children and families in the county every year.**

THE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF FIRST 5 SOLANO'S FUND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

\$4M



INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT: VALLEJO FIRST 5 CENTER

The Vallejo First 5 Center is an innovative place-based hub in Solano's highest-need neighborhood that engages families and provides a space for children to play, learn, and grow. The success of the Center led to it being highlighted by the First 5 Association of California as a model of system integration and spawned a movement to bring a similar initiative to the highest need neighborhood in Fairfield. Following advocacy from First 5 Solano Commissioners and staff, First 5 Solano received \$2 million from the State of California and partnered with the City of Fairfield for a facility to launch this new center.

FIRST 5 SOLANO HELPS A YOUNG MOTHER IN NEED

A young single mother recently contacted the Vallejo First 5 Center in desperate need of basic needs assistance. She had given birth much earlier than expected and was overwhelmed with mixed emotions and the many needs of her newborn. With the help of the Center, the family was able to receive a car seat and pack and play for the baby. At pick-up, with tears in her eyes, the new mom's aunt said, "I have no words to describe how grateful we are to your program for assisting us during this unexpected and challenging time. You are a blessing to our family and our community."





A COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

As one of the most diverse counties in the nation, Solano County has been particularly affected by COVID-19 and systemic inequities, underscoring the importance of efforts to make systems fair and just for all young children and families in the county. First 5 Solano is committed to advancing initiatives that will not only improve the lives of young children today, but will transform early childhood systems so access, experiences, and outcomes are equitable for all young children and families for years to come. Equity is at the core of First 5's work; through data and evidence-informed strategies, it identifies and works towards eliminating opportunity gaps that prevent young children from reaching their potential.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR FIRST 5 SOLANO?



FAIRFIELD FIRST 5 CENTER

In 2021, First 5 Solano received \$2 million from the state to help launch a center in Fairfield that will provide children and families with education and enrichment opportunities and connection to community resources and supports. Modeled after the highly successful Vallejo First 5 Center, the Fairfield First 5 Center will be a hub for family support and community engagement in Fairfield's highest need neighborhood. The City of Fairfield is providing a 6,000 square foot facility on North Texas Street to house the Center.



NEW EARLY LEARNING CENTER IN VALLEJO

Licensed child care is unavailable and unaffordable for the majority of Solano County's working families, and the pandemic only worsened this crisis. A major barrier to expanding the availability of care in the county is a lack of facilities. In response to this need, First 5 Solano is establishing an early learning center on the site of the now-closed Beverly Hills Elementary School in South Vallejo. It will provide child care and early learning opportunities for nearly 300 young children in the county.



CHILD CARE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The pandemic had a significant, detrimental impact on the finances of child care providers who lost income due to reduced enrollment and increased costs to operate safely during COVID-19. To help providers become more sustainable through better management of their enrollment and finance data, First 5 Solano is sponsoring a business management system that child care providers will be able to use at no cost to them.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more, see First 5 Solano's website:
<https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/first5/default.asp>