

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In December 2015, the First 5 Solano Commission approved a 2016 Strategic Plan Update, which adopted a new priority area of *Systems Change* to improve how early childhood systems operate in order to make the best use of increasingly limited resources available across the state. First 5 Solano’s Systems Change goal is that *early childhood systems are strengthened, integrated, expanded, and sustained*. To achieve this goal, First 5 Solano adopted an ambitious action plan to address four aspects of systems change in Solano County, and has continued to make progress in each of these areas. Since the plan’s adoption, staff have refined the original action plan to include the most feasible and relevant efforts. The following is a summary of the key outcomes for FY2020/21 for each of the four systems change result areas.

## Systems are strengthened with the increased capacity of providers.

- First 5 Solano, in partnership with Solano County Health and Social Services, Employment and Eligibility, hosted poverty trainings delivered by Aha! Process, Inc.: “Bridges out of Poverty”, attended by 221 participants, and “Emotional Poverty”, attended by 173 participants.
- First 5 Solano participated in the Solano County Community Action for Racial Equity (CARE) team, who presented six trainings on “Advancing Racial Equity in Government”, and the Solano County Equity Collaborative, which organized a Solano Equity Summit via Zoom.
- Eight professionals in the county, including First 5 Solano’s Health and Education Specialist, were certified to provide trauma-informed trainings, and delivered 12 trainings in FY2020/21.
- First 5 Solano sponsored a Results Based Accountability (RBA) training for 35 professionals to help them communicate their programs’ contribution toward the health of the community.
- First 5 Solano implemented a Request for Applications (RFA) process for its annual grants that encouraged and supported new community partners to apply. This resulted in a significant increase in the number and quality of applications over previous years.
- First 5 Solano supported the professional development of early care and education (ECE) providers through 21 professional development trainings and a virtual ECE conference.
- Twenty-seven providers were trained and accredited to provide the evidence-based Triple P parent education program with fidelity.

## Systems are expanded and sustained with leveraged or new financial resources.

- First 5 Solano met regularly with funders and successfully submitted or supported the submission of 11 grants, totaling \$4.8 million, in FY2020/21. Since July 2016, over \$16 million has been brought into the county through the efforts of First 5 Solano and its partners.

- First 5 Solano received an earmark of \$2 million in the FY2021/22 California State Budget as a result of Assemblymember Jim Frazier’s advocacy on its behalf. This earmark supports tenant improvements and initial operations of a First 5 Center in Fairfield.
- First 5 Solano received over \$600,000 in matching funding from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) for parent education, developmental services, and mental health trainings.
- First 5 Solano successfully requested over \$1 million in funding from the CARES Act to support child care slots, stipends for licensed child care providers, and COVID-19 supplies for agencies serving children 0-5 and their families. In addition to COVID-19 supplies funded through the CARES Act, First 5 Solano received \$135,000 worth of diapers, wipes, and other health and safety supplies from First 5 California and community partners, including Kaiser Permanente, Touro University, and Baby2Baby.
- The Vallejo First 5 Center operated using blended funding from the following sources: Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, First 5 Solano, Solano County MHSA, and Kaiser Permanente Northern California Community Benefit Programs (Kaiser Permanente).

### Systems are integrated with increased cross-systems understanding, resource sharing, referral, and collaboration.

- Solano Kids Thrive (SKT), a county-wide collaboration funded by First 5 Solano, sponsored eight screenings of the film *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope* and developed the Resilient Solano website, a web-based hub for the Solano community to understand the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).
- First 5 Solano convened or played a key role in five cross-sector collaboratives to promote service coordination and alignment among providers serving young children and families.
- Help Me Grow (HMG) Solano’s steering committee met three times, and the HMG Solano call center received 2,031 calls, with approximately 78% of callers receiving a referral.
- The Vallejo First 5 Center’s Community Resource Specialist provided 214 families with consultations, assistance with linkages to multiple resources, and follow-up services. The First 5 Center also offered 68 six-week classes and distributed basic needs items.

### Systems are sustained with legislative and policy changes.

- First 5 Solano continued to advance the Commission’s Legislative Platform by engaging state and local policymakers and submitting or signing on to letters and emails to state leaders. One statewide request advocated for \$20 million from the state budget for First 5 agencies to play an early childhood systems convener role. While it was not ultimately funded, First 5 Solano’s Vallejo First 5 Center was highlighted statewide as a prime example of systems integration.
- In June 2019, the Solano County Board of Supervisors established a data-driven Community Investment Fund (CIF) of \$2 million annually. In FY2020/21, First 5 Solano managed the RFP process for the Transitional Age Youth and annual grants, and managed contracts for mental health, housing, homelessness, and annual grants.