



## California Family Resource Association

*Strong Families. Strong Communities.*

### **First 5 Budget Cuts Action Kit**

Once again, First 5 funds are threatened by the California budget crisis. The Governor's proposed budget seeks to place First 5 funds on the ballot, just 9 months after the failure of Proposition 1D. This year, the proposal includes a transfer of \$308 million from state First 5 funds, followed by another \$242 million every year for 5 years. That is a take-away of \$1.5 billion -- \$1.2 billion of which will come directly from local children's programs.

#### **What Does This Mean?**

Last year more than 270,000 children received First 5-funded early education and child development services, and more than 500,000 received health-related services.

Among contracts currently funded by First 5 commissions:

- \$60.2 million is going to hospitals and community clinics that serve low income children and provide pediatric services unavailable anywhere else. More than \$10 million is going to oral health services.
- \$48.8 million is going directly to county public health and social service departments to deliver critical services, including nurse home visiting for at-risk families, child abuse prevention, and support for children with special needs.
- \$133 million is going to school districts and county offices of education for preschool and other early education programs targeted to children at greatest risk of academic failure – programs that are helping to close the academic achievement gap by closing the school readiness gap.

Elimination of First 5 Funds will mean deep cuts to these vital programs to fill budget gaps in other children's service areas at the State level.

#### **Why Your Help Matters.**

- Legislators represent you and your programs. It is critical that they hear from constituents and understand the programs that could face cuts in their district.
- Just 5 minutes of your time makes a BIG impact. This action kit provides sample letters and articles to make it easy for you to get involved.
- The squeaky wheel gets the grease. We need many voices to speak out against cuts that threaten vital community programs.
- You can help make a difference in the programs that matter to you.