



California Family Resource Association

Strong Families. Strong Communities.

First 5's Budget Response

Please utilize this information to talk about how local First 5 Commissions have worked to fill in local budget gaps in the past year. Look for information on your county and/or other counties your legislator represents. If your county is not included, you may contact your local Commission to see if they have taken any similar actions.

- First 5 Alameda established an emergency response fund of \$500,000 for programs at risk of termination due to state budget cuts. To receive funds, programs must serve children 0 – 5, contribute to systems change, and be consistent with the commission's strategic plan. Among the programs under consideration are Black Infant Health, oral health, programs operated by the Regional Center, and Adolescent Family Life.
- First 5 Fresno increased funds to food banks because of increased need and restructured payments to domestic violence shelters to avoid supplantation. It is funding services for children no longer eligible for Early Start due to new restrictive state eligibility criteria and supporting child welfare services by expanding voluntary family maintenance for families not yet in the child welfare system. The commission also set aside funds to support the public health department's application for federal Healthy Start funds for nursing services.
- First 5 San Diego established an emerging critical needs fund which is supporting county child welfare positions focused on children 0 – 5, including training, Black Infant Health, and the Adolescent Pregnant and Parenting Program.
- First 5 Sacramento funded the Smile Keepers van and two home visitation programs and modified its strategic plan to include home visiting as a strategy, which will allow continuation of the funding for the next 5 years. The sheriff, district attorney, and child protective services are also seeking funds and will come to the commission in December.
- First 5 Solano previously set aside \$500,000, most of which went to Family Resource Centers to address increasing need. This year the commission set aside \$1 million to last through the end of the current funding cycle. Consistent with county counsel guidance regarding supplantation, the commission is looking at increased need for program expansion and similar services, rather than backfilling lost funds. The commission funded Black Infant Health and Adolescent Family Life programs based on increased need, and expanded early childhood mental health funding to support the Regional Center. The county health and human services department asked the commission to incorporate the nurse-family partnership program into its prenatal services program. The department also pointed out likely increased need in the case of CalWORKs mothers with children under 2, who may be exempted from CalWORKs requirements and thus lose access to services and become increasingly isolated.

- First 5 Tuolumne opened a new grant cycle with bonus points for programs impacted by budget cuts. A relatively small amount of funding has kept open a transitional shelter, a preschool, and services for children with autism and ADHD. The commission received three times as many requests as there were available funds.
- First 5 Riverside released funds from its sustainability fund and redirected funds from its current spending plan. The commission funded Adolescent Family Life and Black Infant Health and has just released funds for a new round of grants to meet community need.
- First 5 Humboldt increased its funding for safety net programs and joined with other funders, including United Way and community foundations, to form a Funders Network. They agreed to coordinate funding to respond to the budget crisis strategically and support the safety net. The Network will also include a focus on systems change and collaboration.
- First 5 Contra Costa assessed the huge cuts affecting programs in the county and concluded that the problem is much larger than it can address with its revenues. Therefore the commission decided to increase funding for existing programs, including family resource centers to address increased family need, and early childhood mental health, anticipating less access as children lose health insurance. Most notable is the commission's decision in its new strategic plan to spend down its funds over the next 5 years in order to preserve what it can in the near term, with the hope the situation will improve by the end of that time.
- First 5 Yolo pulled \$300,000 from its sustainability fund, undertook a safety net needs assessment, and talked to county department heads and funded programs. The commission provided a \$200,000 match to the county to draw down \$800,000 from the federal TANF-ECF program for homelessness prevention, emergency food, and emergency child care and housing. It also funded the food bank and explored funding Prop 36 programs, but ran into supplantation problems.
- First 5 Ventura joined with other funders to form Ventura County Together, a community campaign to raise funds through both small and large donations in order to support the community safety net. Each principal contributed about \$10,000 and they recently received a \$450,000 match from Amgen, Inc, which is headquartered in Ventura. The campaign is working with 29 non-profit organizations and plans that 30% of the funds will go to food banks, 30% to shelter, 30% to clinics, and 10% to the 2-1-1 system.
- First 5 LA funded the Black Infant Health program in 4 out of the 5 supervisorial districts and is determining an amount to set aside as an emergency fund. The commission expects emergency funding to be required over the next 2 to 3 years. In order to receive funds, programs will have to expand or enhance services, and the services will have to be consistent with the commission's strategic plan.

