



California Family Resource Association

Strong Families. Strong Communities.

First 5 Talking Points for Family Resource Centers/Family Support Organizations

Utilize these talking points when speaking with your Legislators regarding First 5 funding.

- First 5 funds programs critical to children and families, including health, education, support to at-risk families and child abuse and neglect prevention. Each year 868,000 children, 0-5 years old, are served.
- Voters approved Proposition 10 in 1998 specifically to direct tobacco tax to programs serving children at the local level. In just May of last year, voters once again affirmed their commitment to First 5, voting down Proposition 1D by 66%.
- First 5 has stepped up to the plate in this budget crisis. In 2009 the First 5 State Commission directed \$81.4 million to backfill Healthy Families, ensuring coverage for 200,000 infants and children. In our county, First 5 has...(please fill in how your local commission stepped in to ease budget cuts and maintain vital local programs).
- The First 5 Commission structure allows funding decisions to be made at the County level, addressing local priorities which may differ among California's diverse communities. Additionally, local control ensures that money flows into small, but important community programs rather than becoming lost in the large state budget.
- The shift of First 5 revenues will further deepen cuts in services to families during an already dire economic time. While services such as child care, child welfare, and foster care are critical to the health and safety of children, currently First 5 funds are being used to work to keep children and families out of these systems. Cutting the prevention services will only further increase caseloads of the other state programs and increase these backend funding areas.
- Please oppose efforts to divert funds from First 5.

To locate your Legislator, please go to <http://www.legislature.ca.gov/> and enter your zip code in the section titled "Find My District" at the lower right corner.

1331 Garden Highway, Suite 146
Sacramento, California 95833

916.285.