



## FIRST 5 COMMISSIONS: SUCCESSFUL LOCAL PROGRAMS WITH STATEWIDE IMPACT

First 5 Commissions in every California county are investing in the healthy development of their youngest children – those ages 0 – 5 – through support to the children, their families, and the programs and agencies responsible for meeting their needs.

### Who Is Receiving Services Funded by First 5 County Commissions?

About 4 million people during the last fiscal year received direct services from First 5-funded agencies. The most intensively served were children at greatest risk of not being ready for school:

- Latino children (78% of children served)
- Children of families who primarily speak a language other than English (71%)
- Children living in low-income households (65%)
- Children whose mothers do not have a high school diploma or GED (53%)
- Children identified as having disabilities or other special needs (11%)

### What Kinds of Programs Is First 5 Funding?

In 2005-06, First 5 County Commissions funded and partnered with a wide range of agencies on 2,038 programs designed to improve the lives and school readiness of young children.

- The majority of the programs (69%) were focused on providing direct services to children and families. These included early education programs, parent education and support, developmental screenings and assessments, enrollment in health insurance, and preventive health care, including dental care.
- More than a third (36%) of the local programs provided training and other activities to further the skills and resources of those who work with young children and their families – including health care providers, early educators, child care providers, and others – to improve the quality of services available to children.
- Twelve percent of programs received funds to improve or expand their facilities or to purchase equipment and materials to enhance their programs.

### Services to Improve Child Development

- **Early education programs.** 583 programs provided early childhood activities that foster social, emotional, and intellectual growth and prepare children for further learning. They served 647,444 children and 268,774 parents.
- **Kindergarten transition programs.** 311 programs provided transition activities to 202,932 children about to enter kindergarten and 118,722 parents of children



entering kindergarten. 337 programs provided 16,339,541 parents and community members with information about ways to help children become ready to succeed in school through community outreach activities.

- **Developmental screenings/assessments and services.** 436 programs screened 283,701 children for disabilities and worked with 131,766 of their parents. 237,183 children and 92,284 parents received services to directly address their needs.

### Services to Improve Child Health

- **Tobacco cessation education and treatment.** 134 programs provided tobacco cessation education and treatment to 87,615 parents and 7,763 other family members.
- **Prenatal care and birth education.** 255 programs provided prenatal care and birth education and services to 174,857 expectant parents.
- **Breastfeeding assistance.** 148 programs provided breastfeeding assistance to 159,743 new mothers.
- **Nutrition education and assessment.** 351 programs provided nutrition education and assessment to 453,857 program participants, including 217,941 children, 206,200 parents, and 29,716 other family members.
- **Health insurance enrollment and assistance.** 363 programs helped 475,417 program participants enroll in low-cost and public health insurance programs.
- **Health care.** 543 programs (40% of programs providing direct services) provided health care services to 533,585 children.
- **Oral health preventive services, screening, and treatment.** 264 programs provided oral health treatment, screenings, checkups, and education to 437,773 participants.

### Services to Support Families

- **Family literacy programs.** 392 programs conducted activities to increase the amount parents read to their children, touching 311,522 children, 220,164 parents, and 17,126 other family members.
- **Mental health services.** 317 programs provided counseling and behavioral and mental health assessments to 304,393 children and their family members.
- **Assistance with basic needs.** 297 programs provided 431,130 family members with meals, groceries, or store certificates for food; clothing; access to emergency funding or household goods; and help in finding temporary or affordable housing.